

ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN®

ISSUE

78

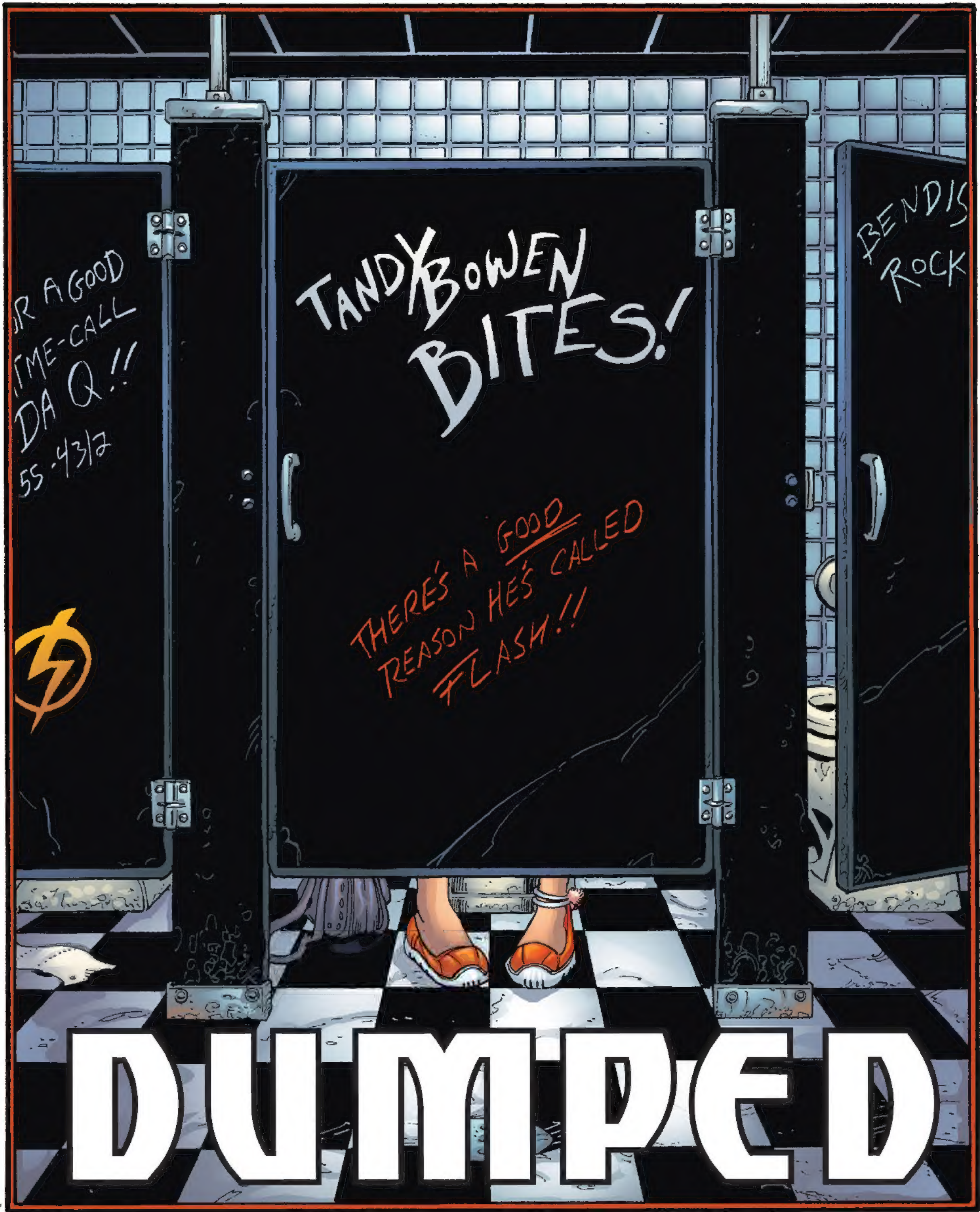
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MARVEL®

PREVIOUSLY IN ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN

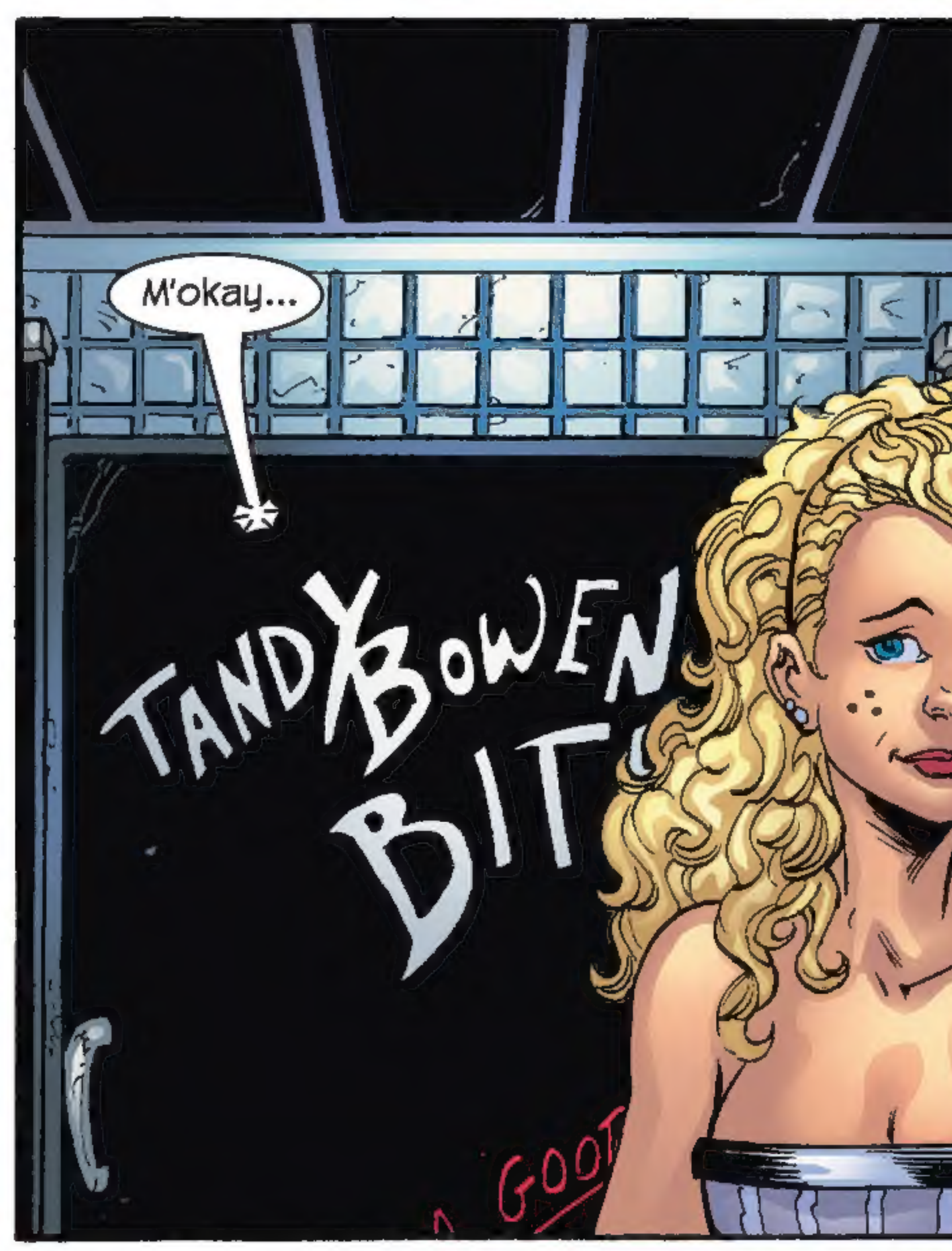
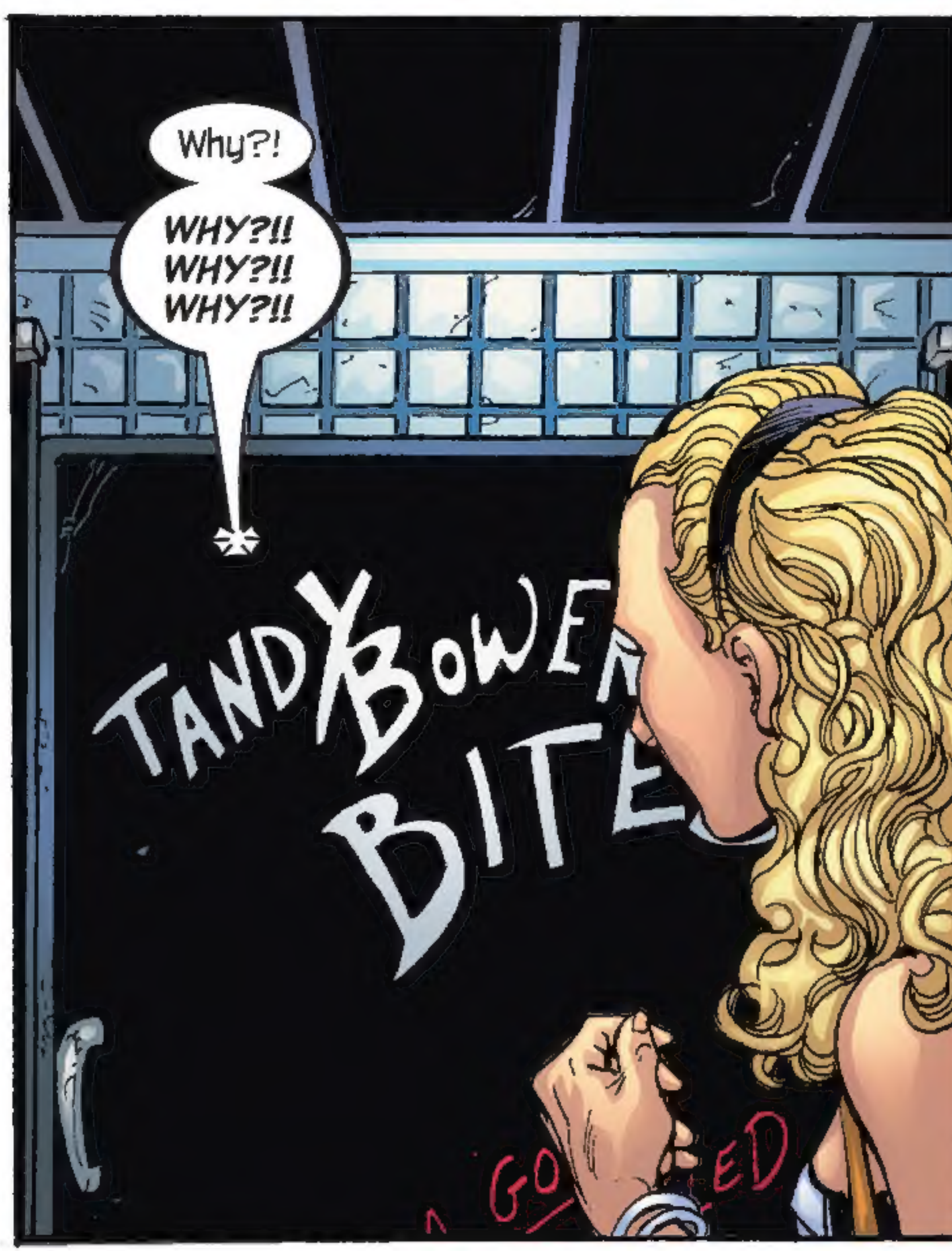
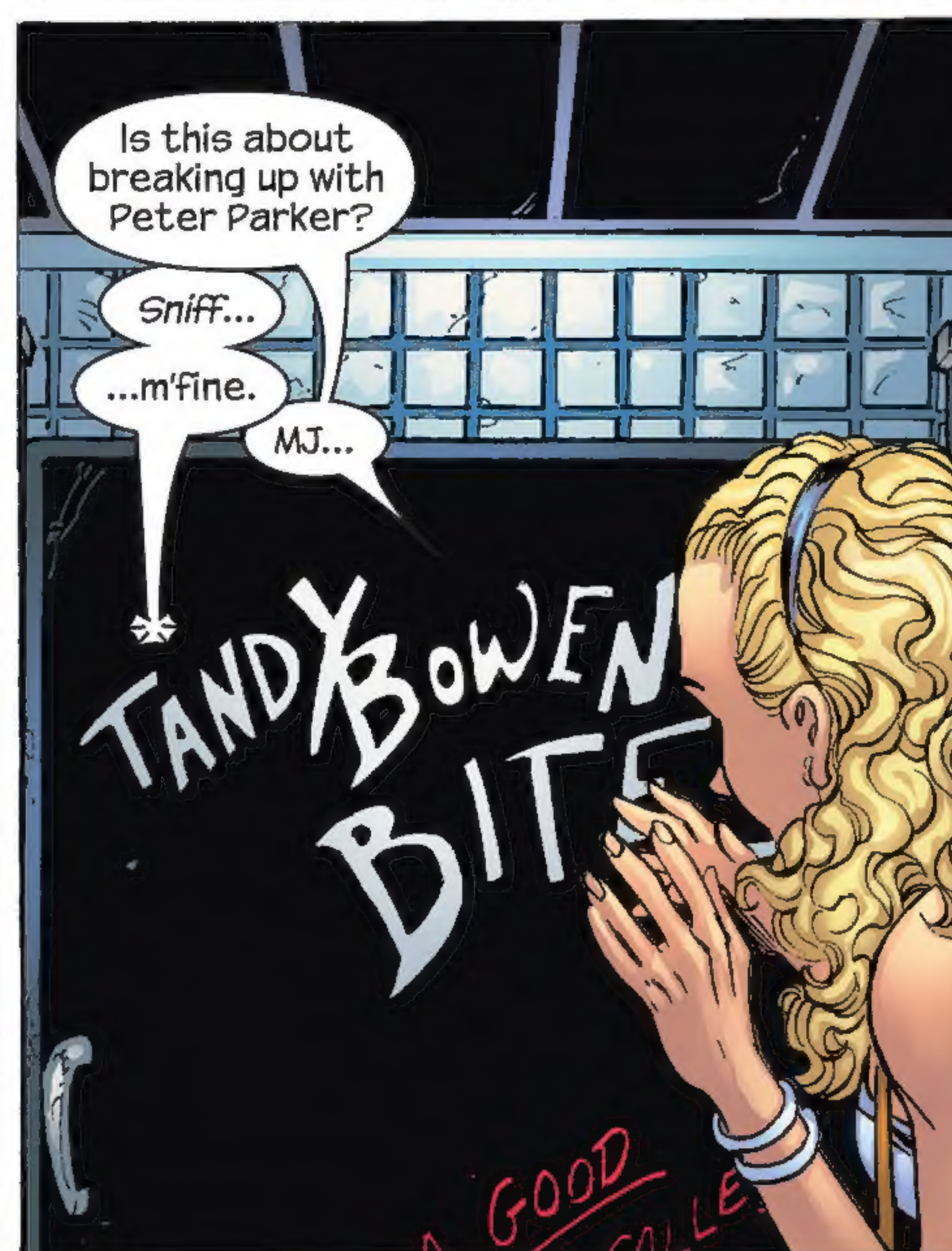
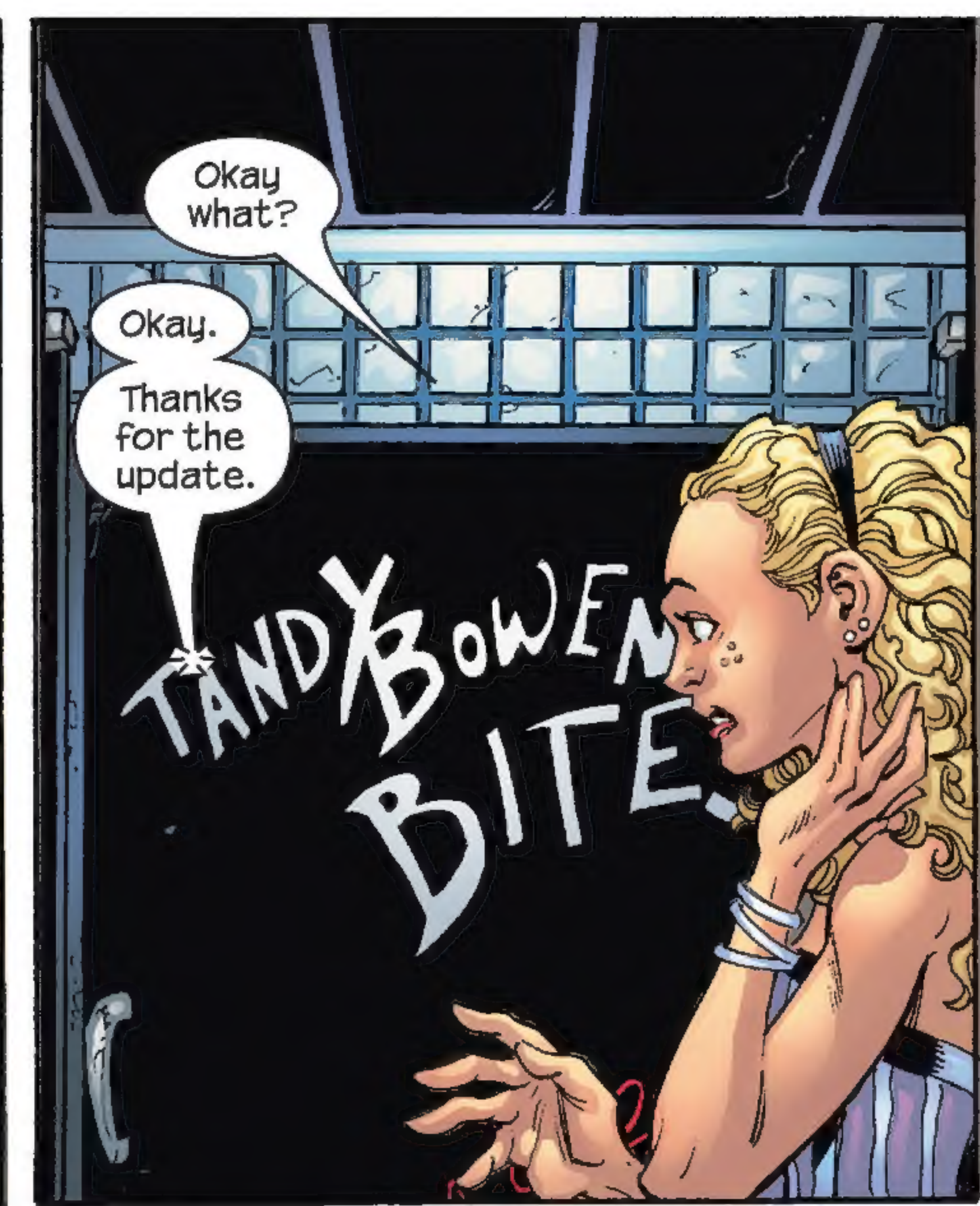
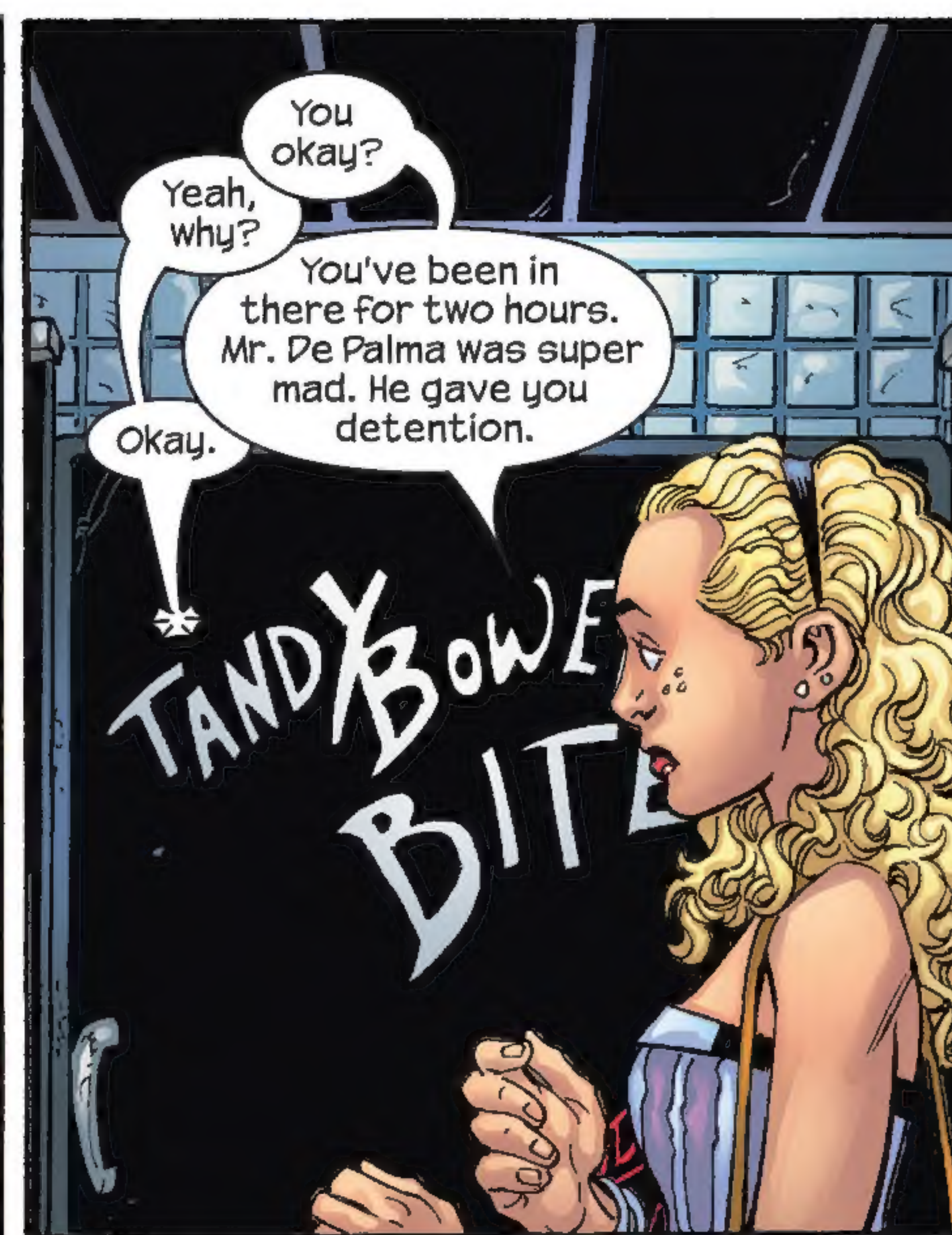
Peter Parker has faced many dangers in his young life, but he's always been able to take care of himself. In fact, his greatest fear is that his life as Spider-Man will endanger one of his loved ones—and when his girlfriend Mary Jane didn't heed Peter's advice to avoid Harry Osborn (son of Spidey's greatest villain), Peter ended his relationship with MJ...



Brian Michael **B E N D I S**  Mark **B A G L E Y**  SCOTT **H A N N A**
S T O R Y P E N C I L S I N K S

J. D. **S M I T H**  Chris **E L I O P O U L O S**  Tom **V A L E N T E**  John Nicole **B A R B E R**  Ralph **W I L E Y**  Joe **M A C C H I O**  Dan **Q U E S A D A**  B U C K L E Y
C O L O R S L E T T E R S P R O D U C T I O N A S S I S T A N T E D I T O R S E D I T O R E D I T O R I N C H I E F P U B L I S H E R

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You had to watch a DVD!

A DVD!!

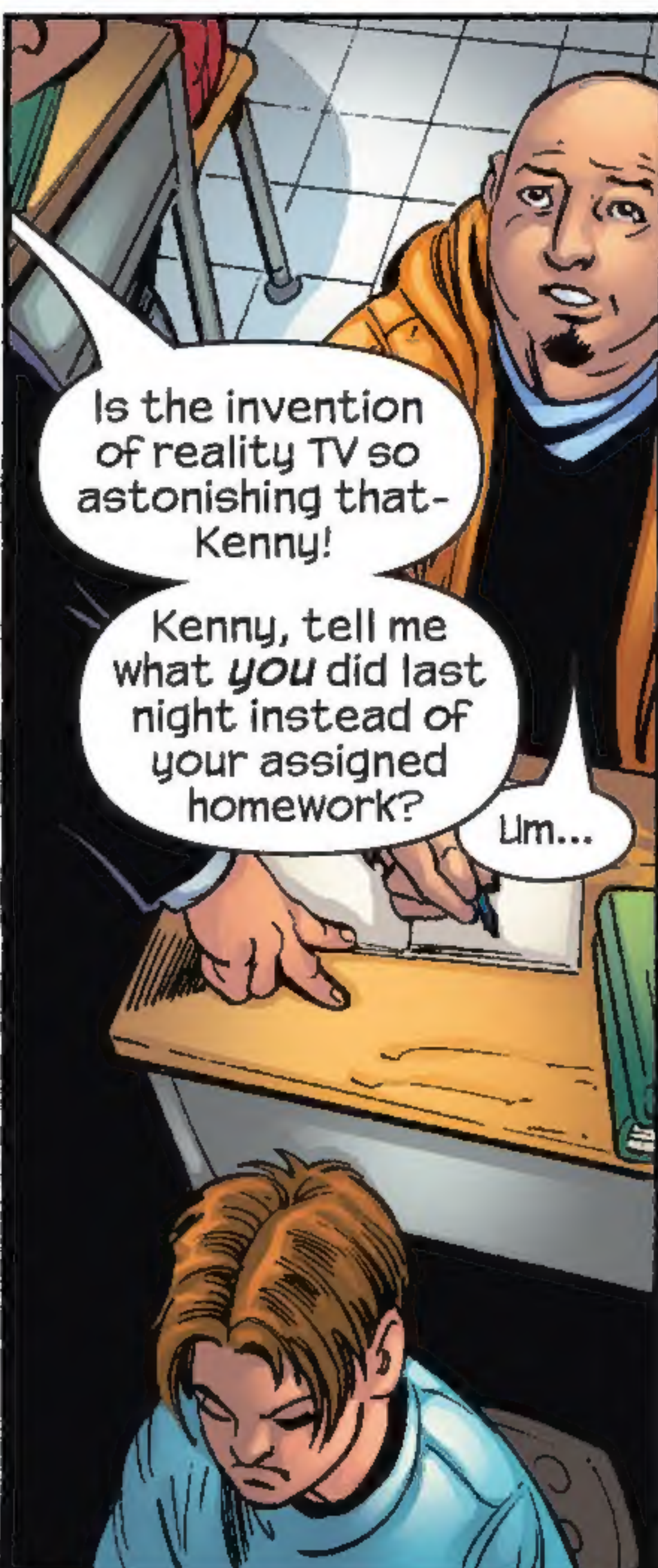
Your homework was to watch a DVD and *still* you did not do it!!



I really want to know!

What is it going to *take* for you people to *do* your homework??

Because I am at my wit's end.



Is the invention of reality TV so astonishing that-Kenny!

Kenny, tell me what *you* did last night instead of your assigned homework?

Um...



Please, please regale us all with stories of your dazzling nightlife.



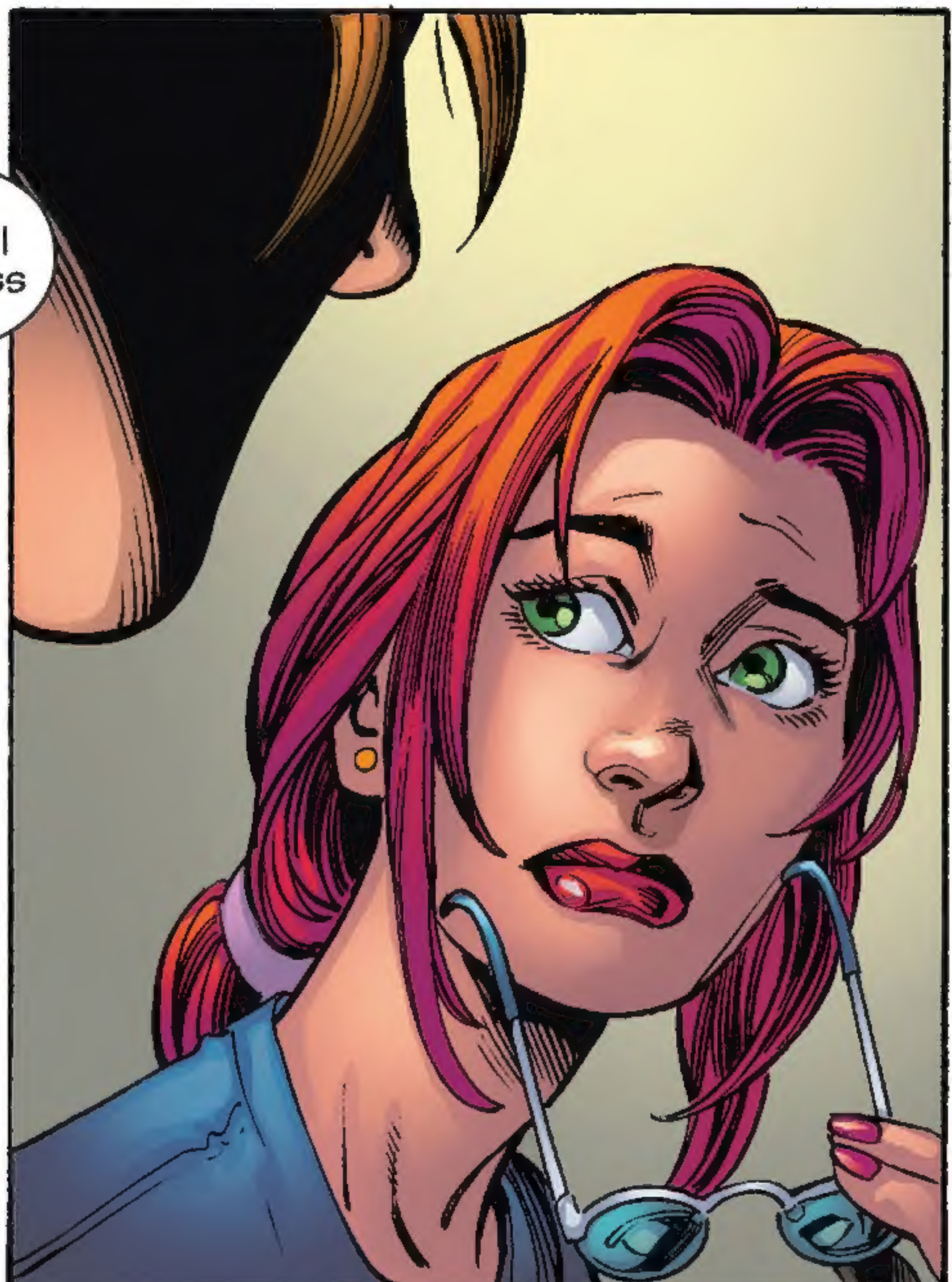
This life of yours that is so *full* that doing homework comes a distant third.

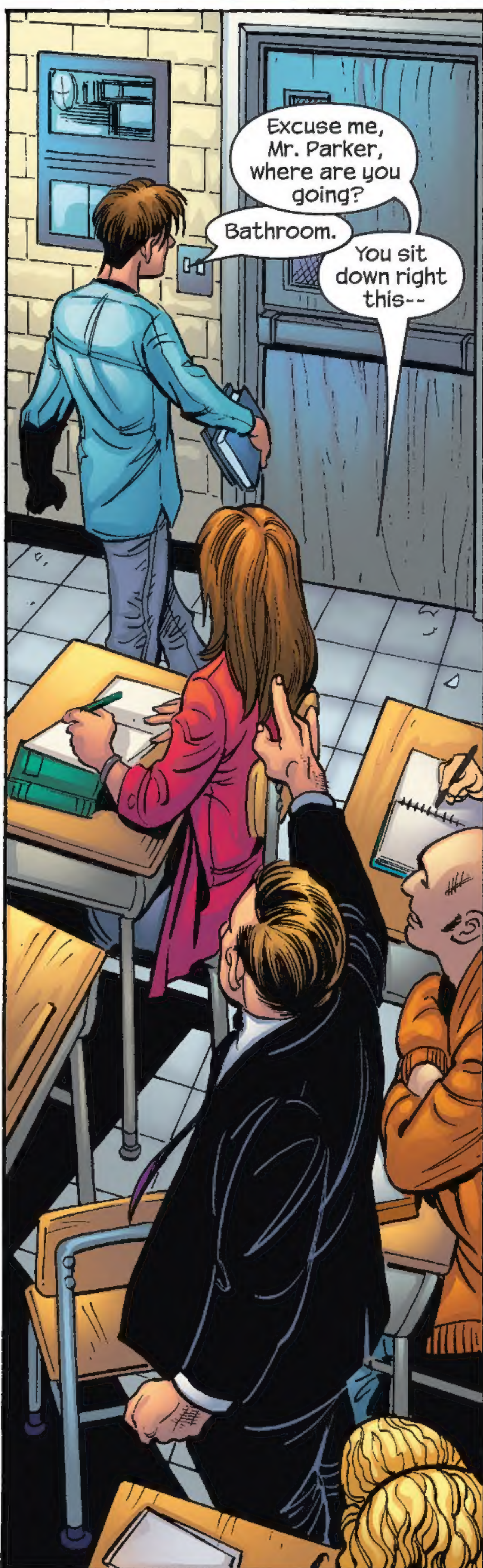
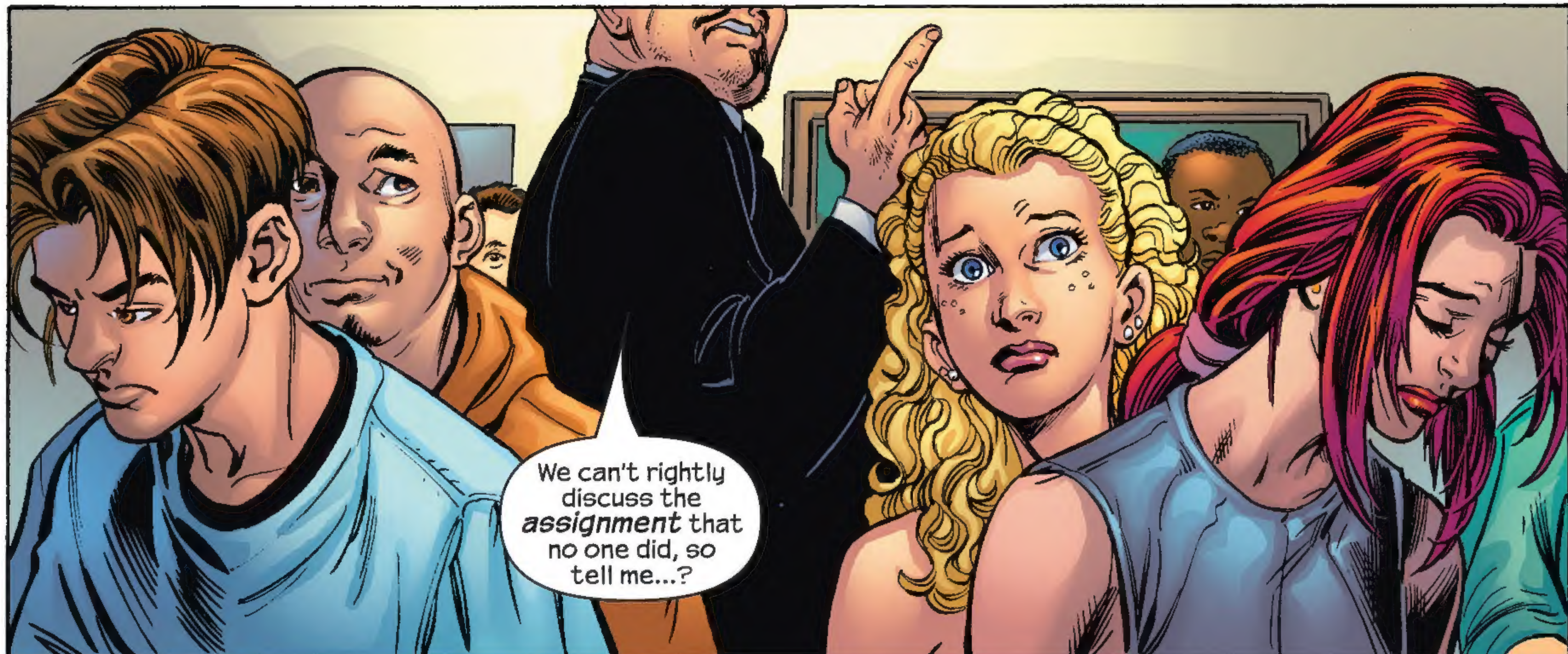
Why are you picking on *me*?



Oh, you think *this* is picking on you, young man? Wait until your parents get your midterm grade.

Well, what would you all like to discuss then?







Oh my God-
I totally forgot
to tell you--

What?

I'm totally
in the doghouse
at home.

Why?



I totally
took off for
senior skip
day.

You are
so totally
grounded
and--

Why?
Everybody
skipped for
senior skip
day.



Yeah, they
called in sick.
I just didn't
show up.

You
didn't call
in?

I didn't
call in.

Well-
duh.

I
know.

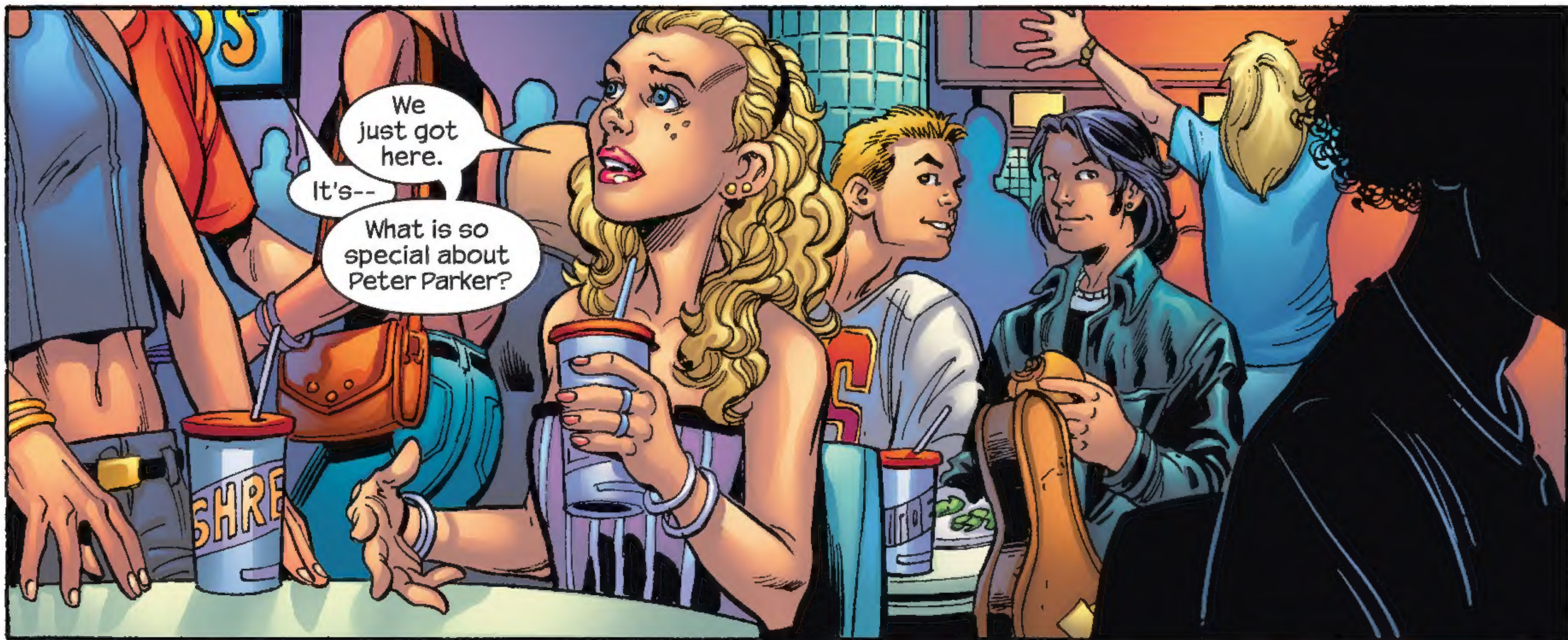
So I said:
"What did he say?"
She said he said his
cell phone was
broken. What a
dog, right?

Uh-huh.

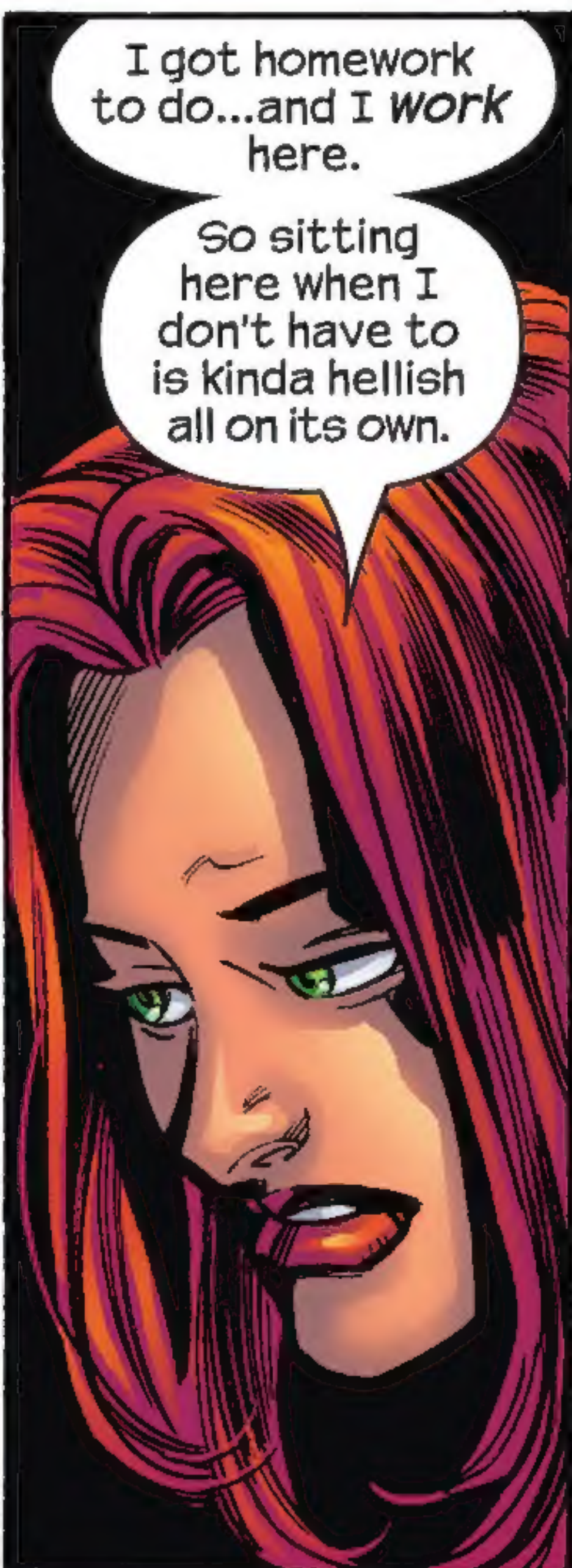
So I told
her to tell
him--

Um, I'm
gonna take
off.





We just got here.
It's--
What is so special about Peter Parker?



I got homework to do...and I *work* here.
So sitting here when I don't have to is kinda hellish all on its own.

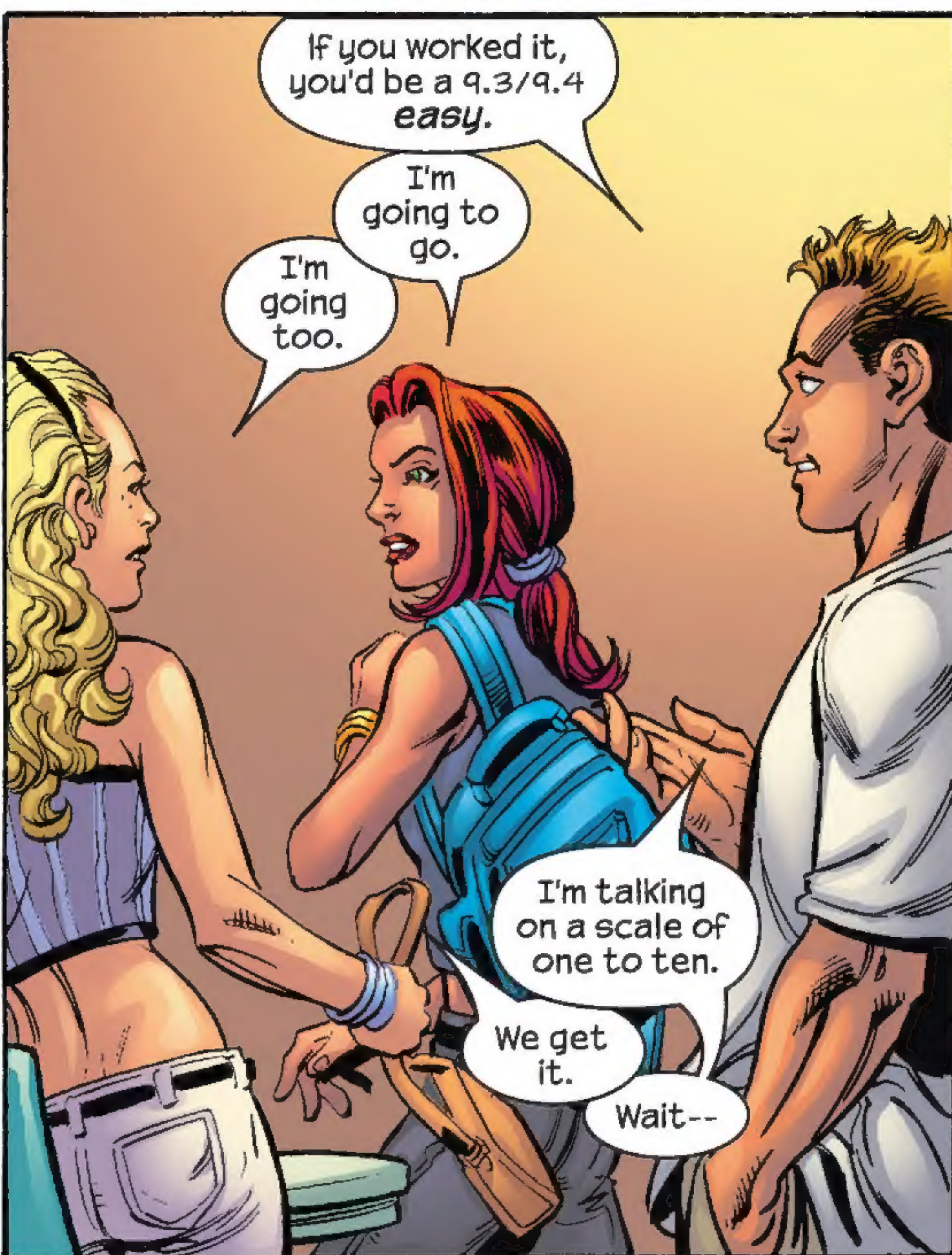


You said you'd hang out with us.
I know. I love you. I just--

Parker dumped *you*? That's, like, insane to me.
You're, like, an 8.4 and he's, like, a 4.8.



Hey! That's a compliment!
You're *almost* a nine!
And that's *with* you wearing glasses and dressing like you work on a farm.

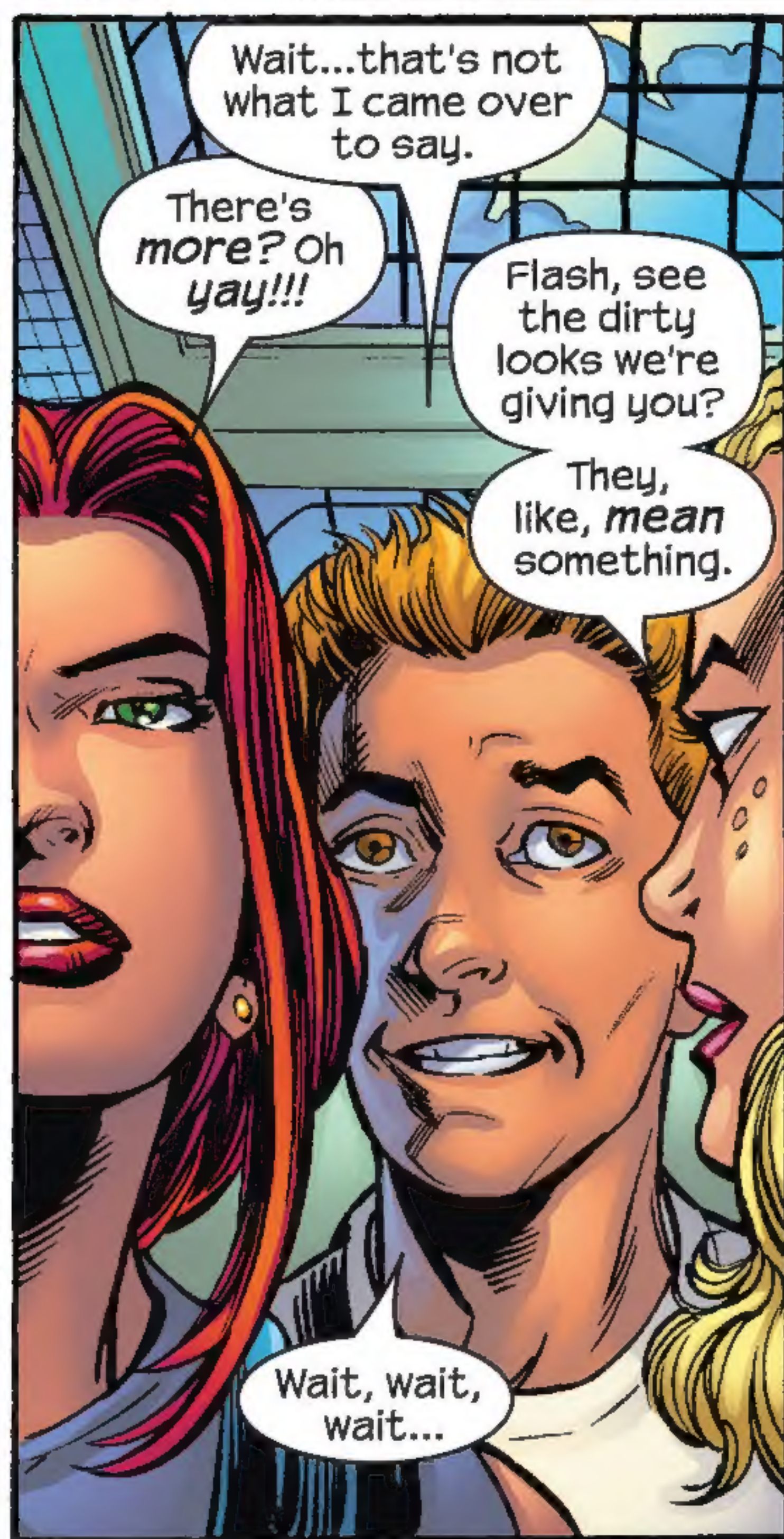


If you worked it, you'd be a 9.3/9.4 *easy*.
I'm going to go.
I'm going too.

I'm talking on a scale of one to ten.

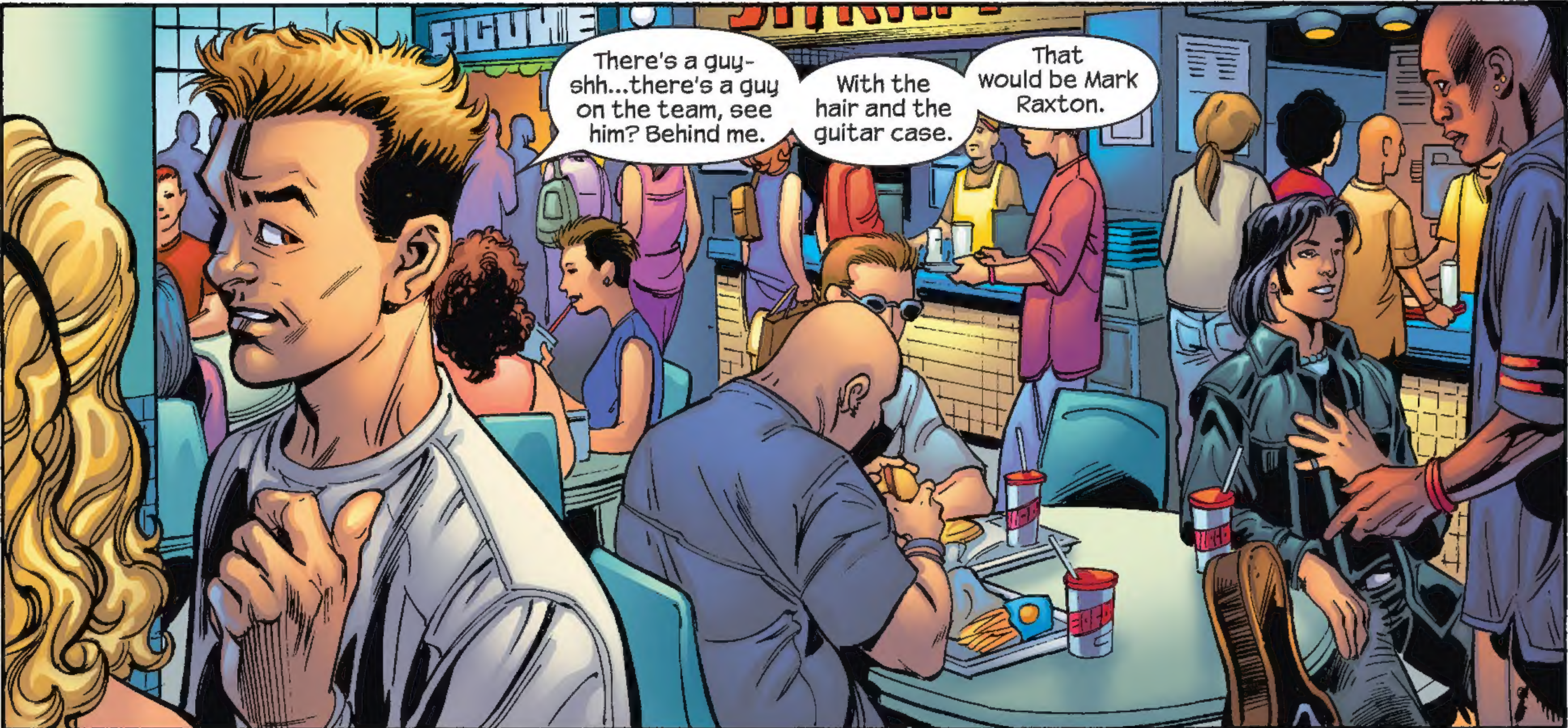
We get it.

Wait--



Wait...that's not what I came over to say.
There's *more*? Oh yay!!!
Flash, see the dirty looks we're giving you?
They, like, *mean* something.

Wait, wait, wait...



There's a guy-shh...there's a guy on the team, see him? Behind me.

With the hair and the guitar case.

That would be Mark Raxton.



Keep talking.



He's on the basketball team. Senior. He's got a band.

He's a good guy.

So he- he sorta said he likes you.

I mean, he likes what he sees. You know?

(Got a thing for redheads...)

He asked me to come over here...



That's okay.

No, he's not like me, he's--

A nice guy.

I'm not looking for--

Well, yeah, I mean, he's a good guy.

Seriously?? Because of Parker?

Flash!

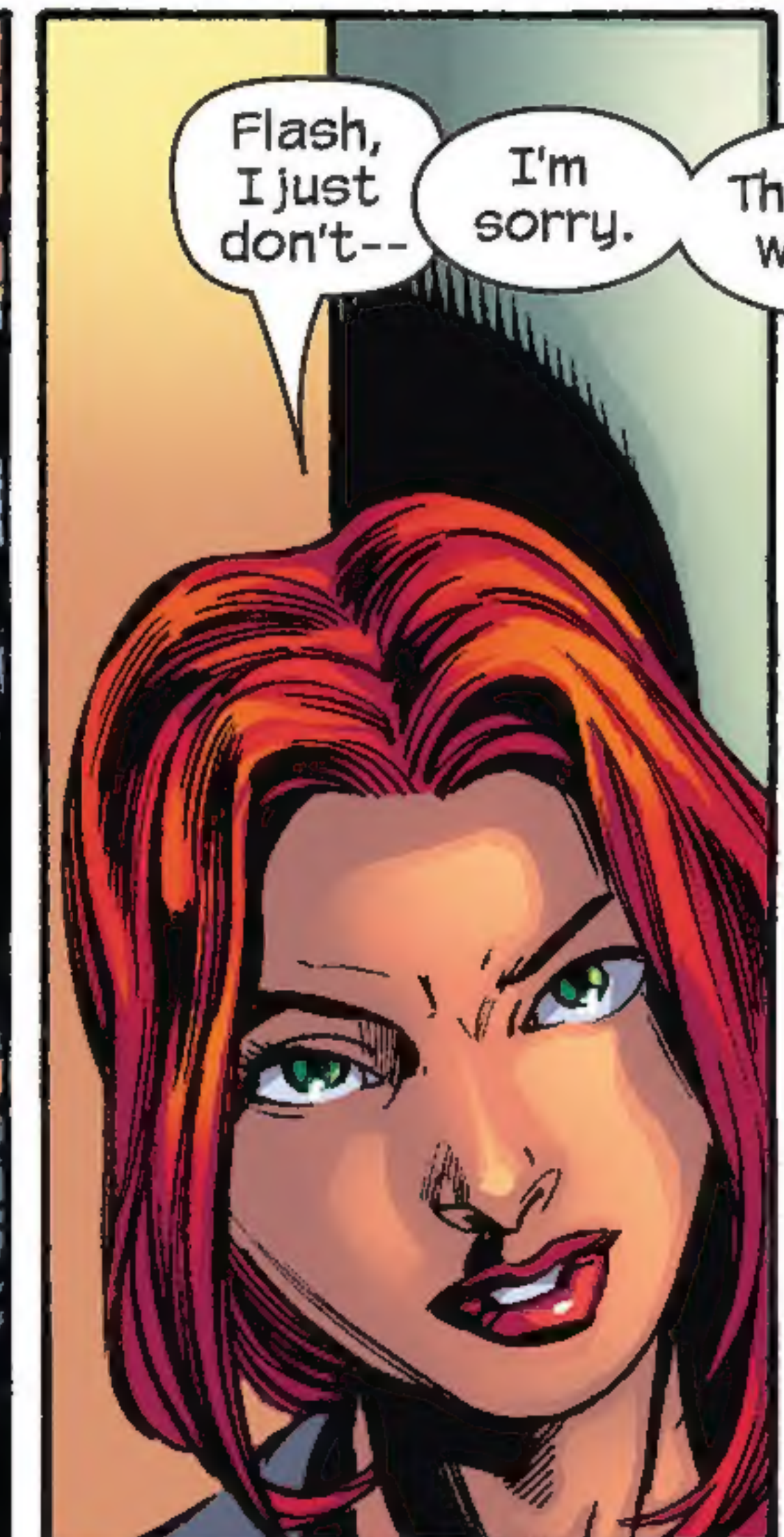
He's a senior!



I swear!

Someone please explain to me...

What is so frickin' special about Peter Parker?



Flash, I just don't--

I'm sorry.



This was wrong.

So wrong!

Hey!

I was just doing what you--

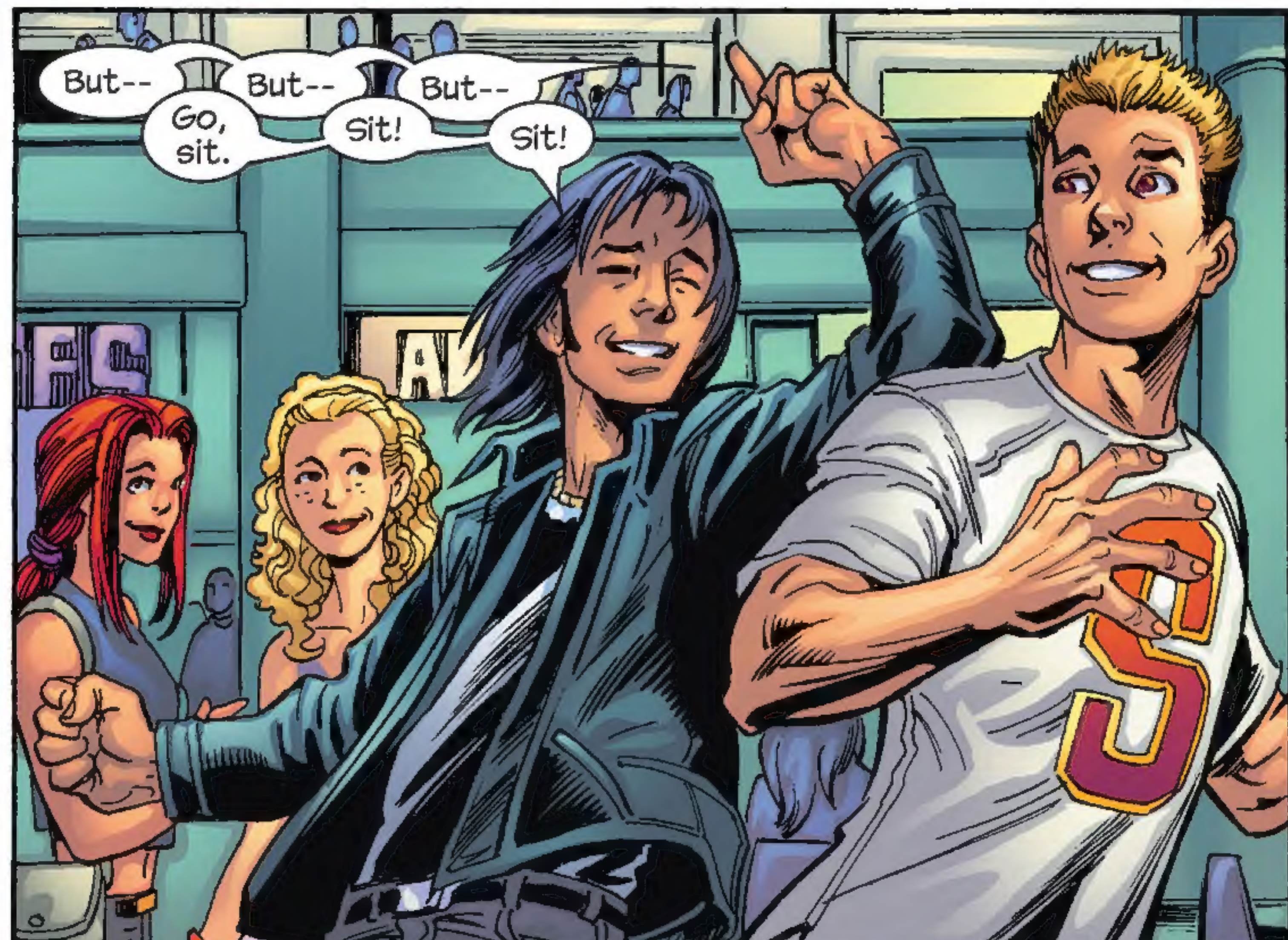
As soon as he left our table, I knew it was a bad idea to let him come over like this.



It's okay, I just- I just want to go home and--

I was working the magic.

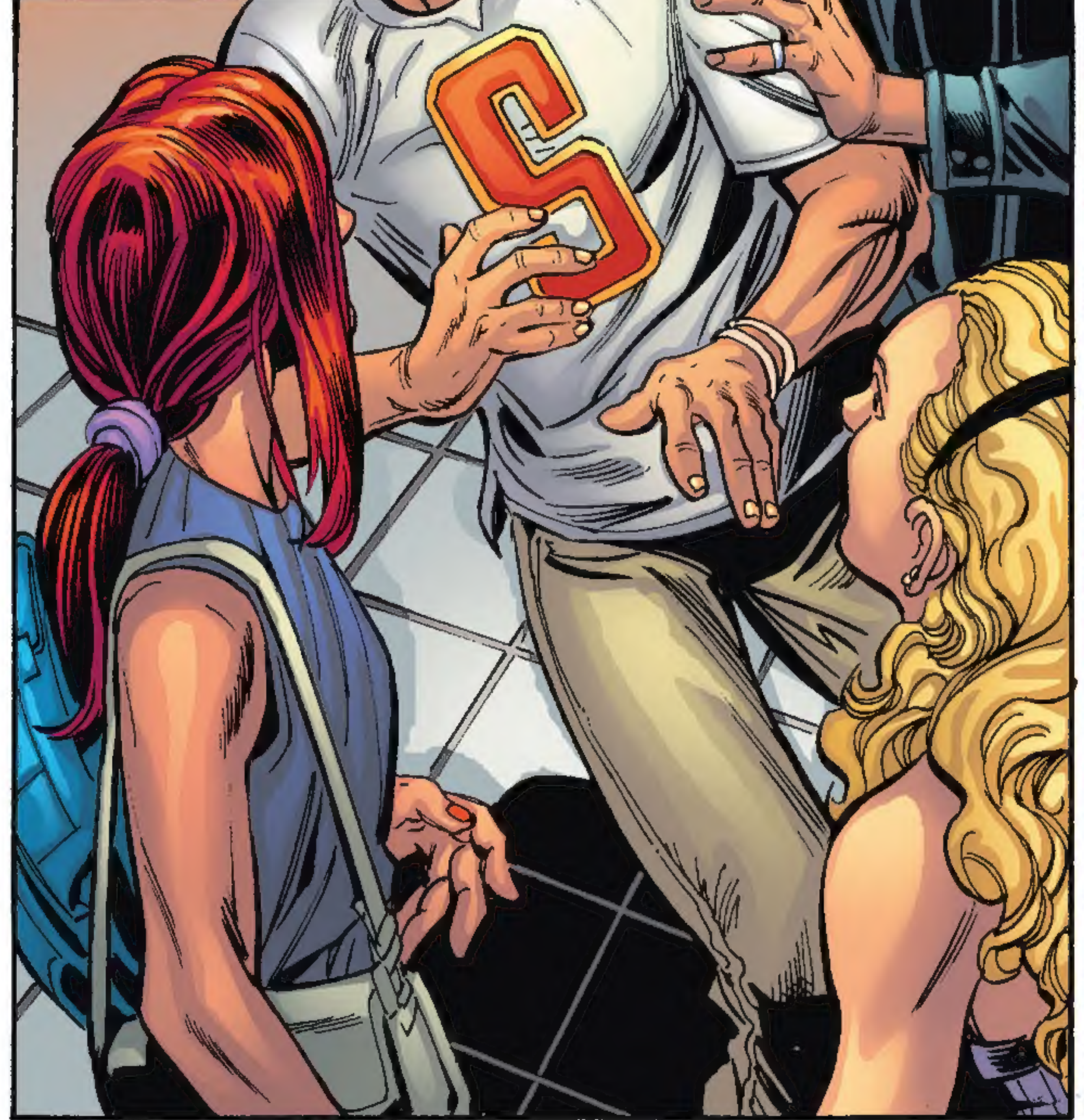
You go sit.



But-- Go, sit.

But-- Sit!

But-- Sit!



I blew it.

He heard me say- he wants to be my buddy or something and he heard me talking about you and he said he was friends with you- and- and I let him come over.

That was my shot with you and I blew it. I just wanted to come over here and apologize.

I'm sorry.



It's okay.



Can I buy you some French fries to make it up to you both? Please?

Waiter?

Thank you.



What kind of band?

A "not-as-good-as-our-singer-thinks-we-are" band.

Isn't that every band ever?

Everyone except the Ramones.



Cheers.

I just saw this documentary on them and it--

I had a- it was a religious experience.

Oh man, you don't do Ramones cover songs, do you?

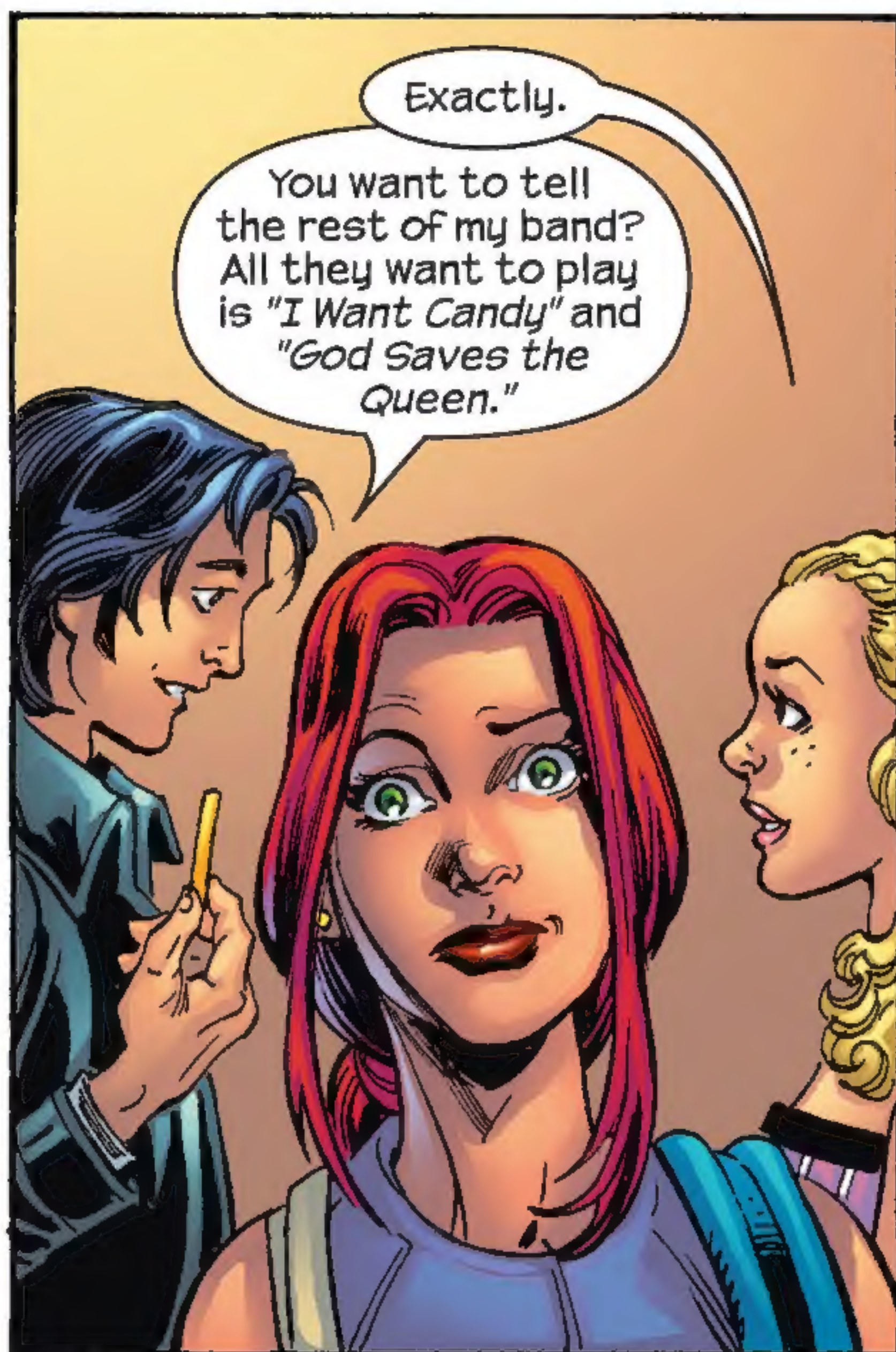


No, that is so- punk bands that do cover songs are lame with a capital lame. It's the opposite of punk.

Exactly.

Covers is anti-punk.

(Is? Are?)



Exactly.

You want to tell the rest of my band? All they want to play is "I Want Candy" and "God Saves the Queen."



Well, our friend here just had a nasty breakup--

Liz!

Everyone **knows** about it. But it is not spoken of publicly.

Liz...

I'm talking to our new--

Stop.



Just trying to explain the storm cloud that forever hangs over this table.



Yeah, I met him.

Panker-Parker.

Parker, right?



Yeah, don't--
Listen, don't make fun of him.

Why would I?
Why *would* I make fun of someone you like?

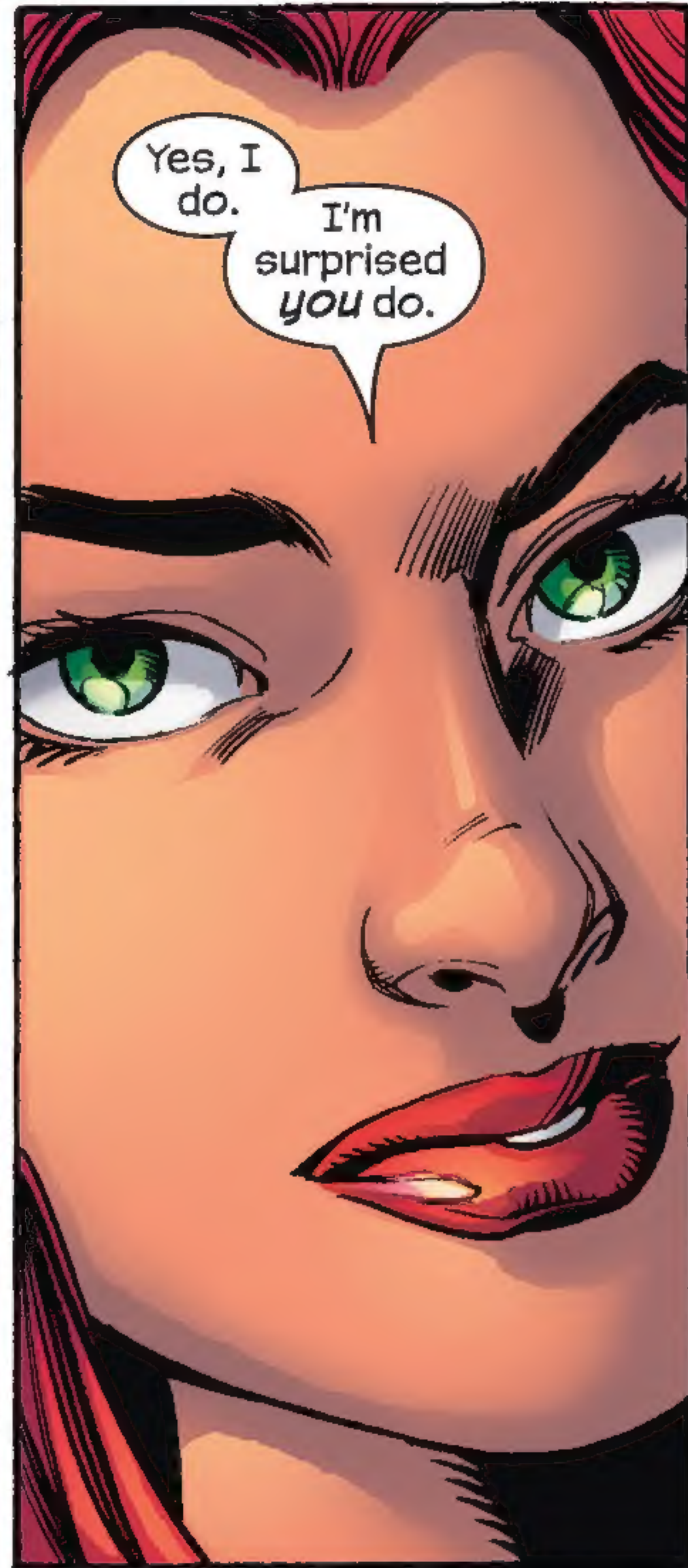


Sure, he's a great guy.
You know, for a guy.



For a guy?

You do know guys *suck* though, right?



Yes, I do.
I'm surprised *you* do.



I'm breaking the man code here, but yes, we know we suck.

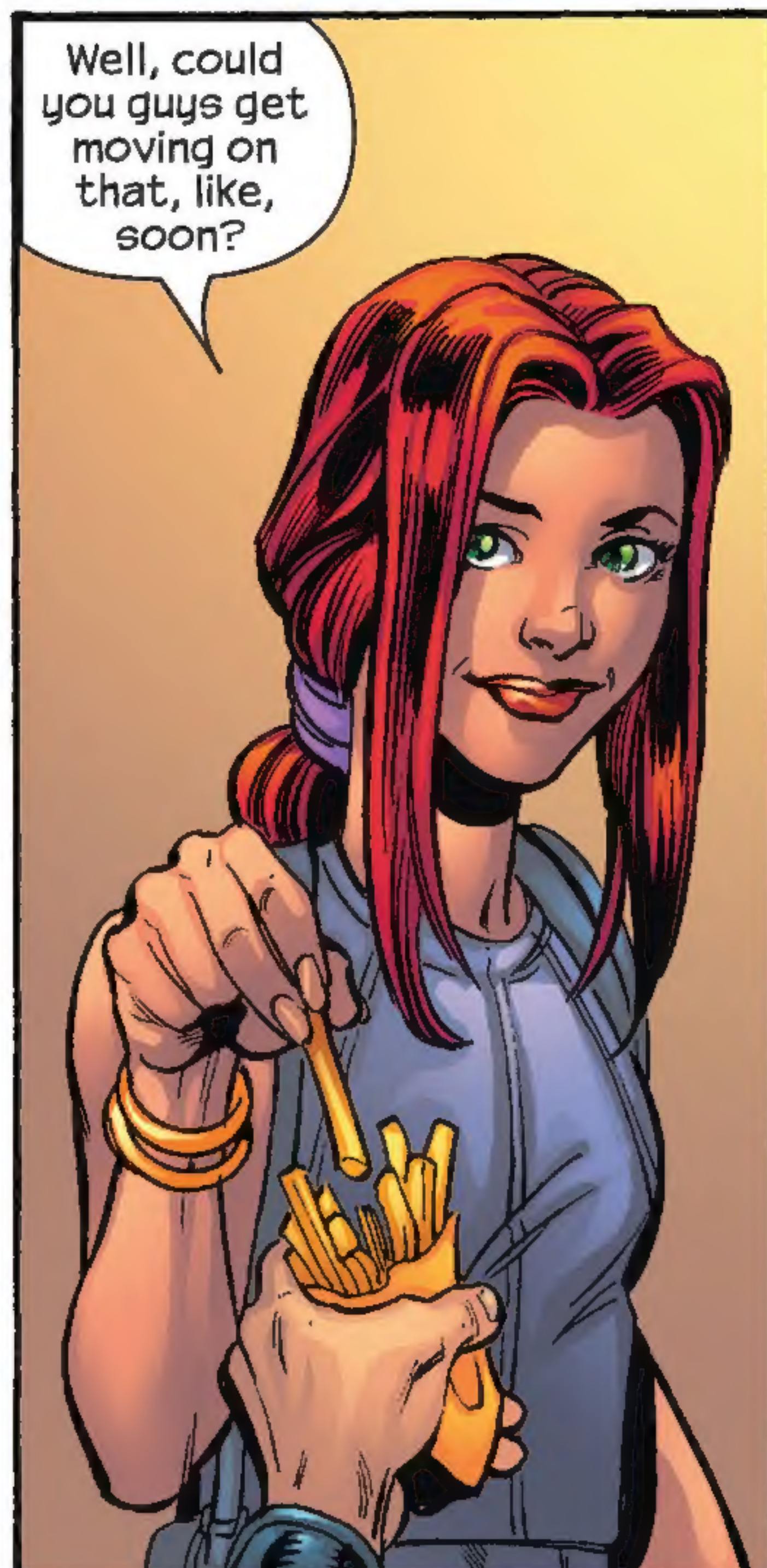
We *do* suck and we *know* we suck.

Ahhah!! Oprah is right!



But, hey! Good news!

We all got together last week, us guys, and we had a meeting and we agreed to stop sucking sometime in the near or not too distant future.

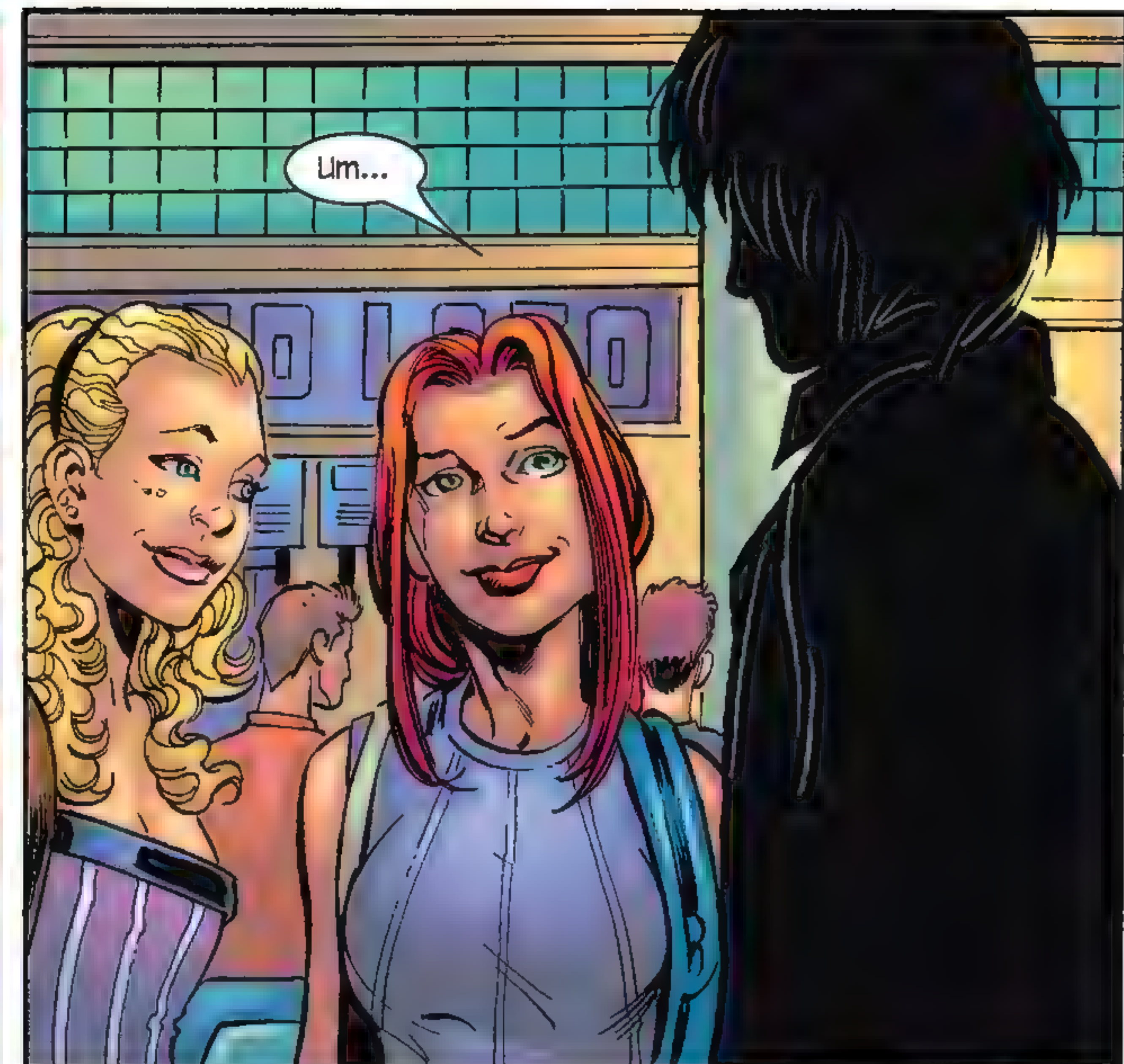


Well, could you guys get moving on that, like, soon?



Yo! Ho!
B-ball!
We gotta go!

I gotta go.



Um...



You know where
The Strand is?

No.
I have homework--
We'll find it.



C'mon!!
We got practice!!

We have practice.

Today!

I'm going to throw him in traffic.



Tomorrow night at eight.

Just a fun night out. You deserve it. You've earned it.

I gotta go.

I'm sorry about the whole thing before with Flash and--

Okay.

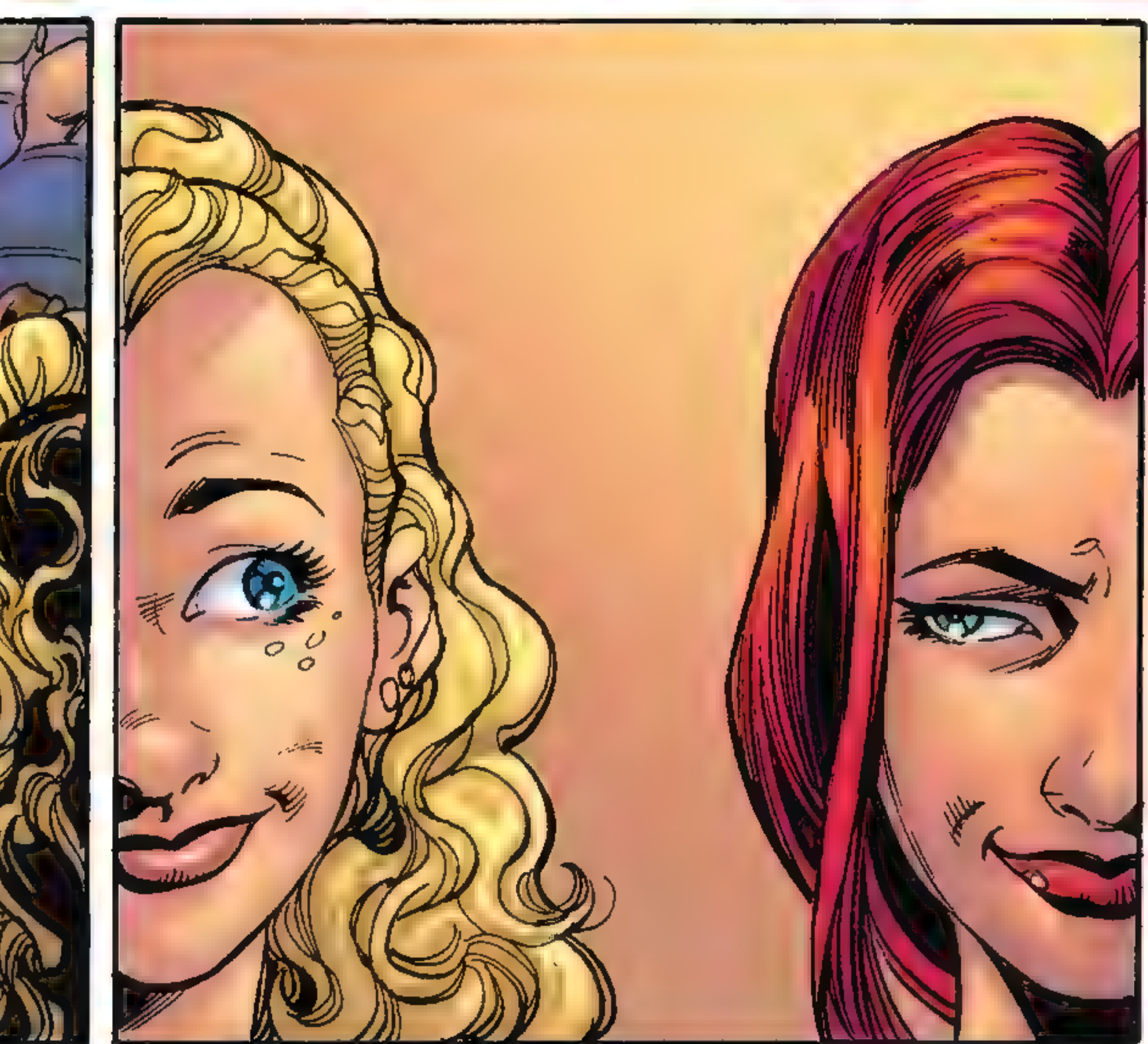


Punk rock cutie likes redheads.



Hey, should I send Flash over here to awkwardly invite you guys to see my band play tomorrow night? Or should I do it myself?

I-- Yes.



PUNK ROCK CUTIE!!!

Oy.



YOU'RE MY MOLTEN
MAAAAAAAAAAANN!!

AND I'M
MELTING ON
YOUUUUUUUUU!!

YEEAAAAGGGHHHHHH!!

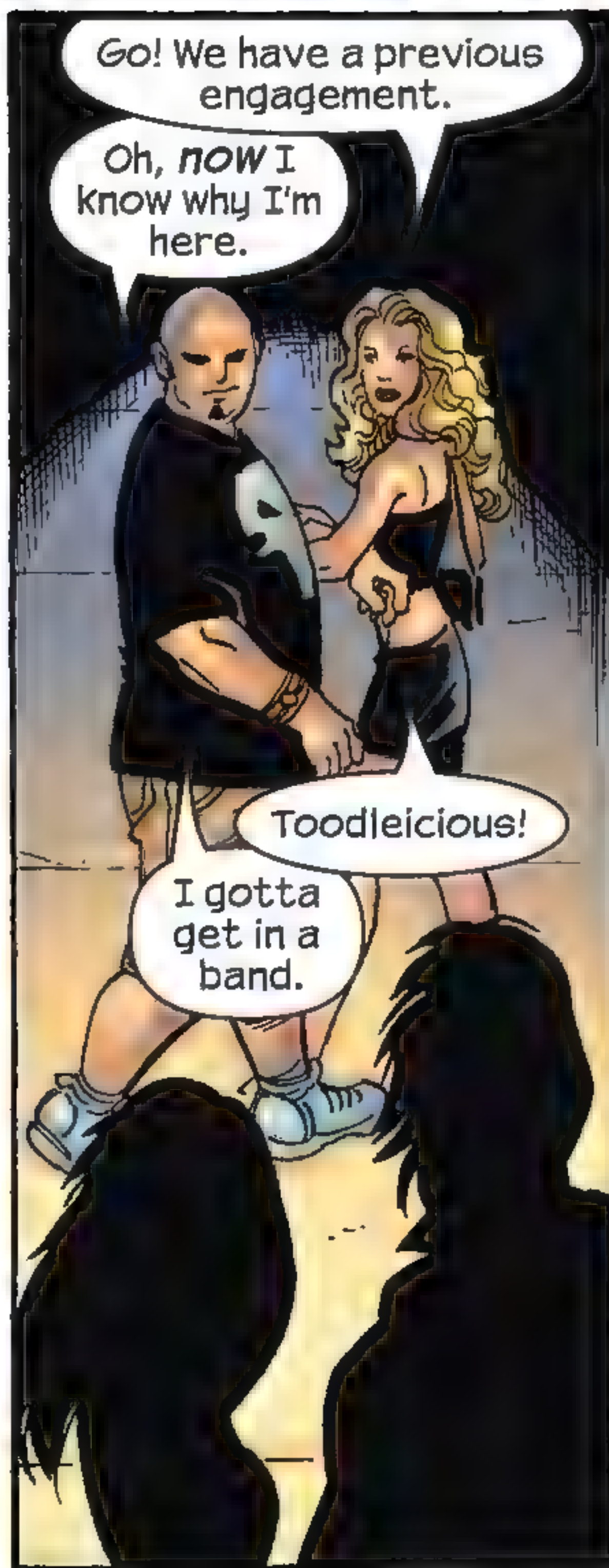
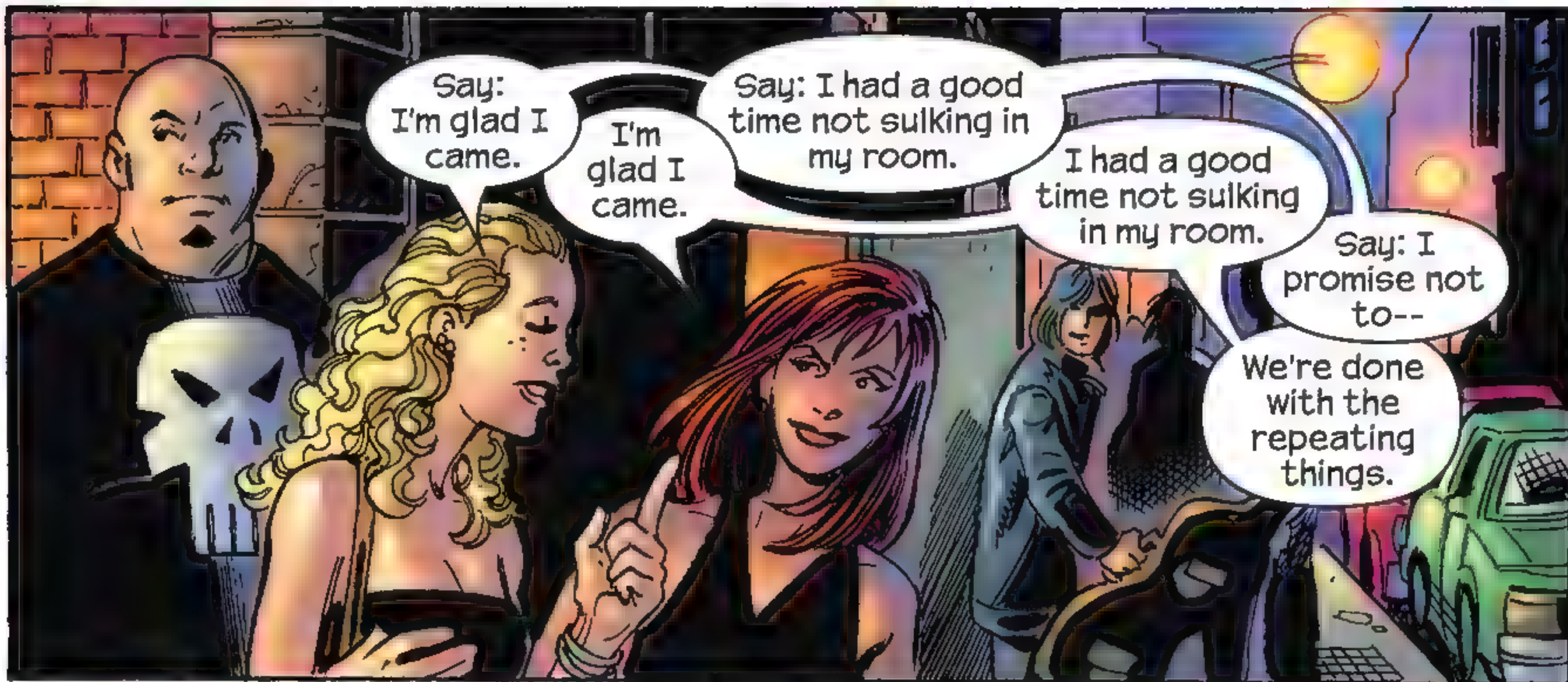


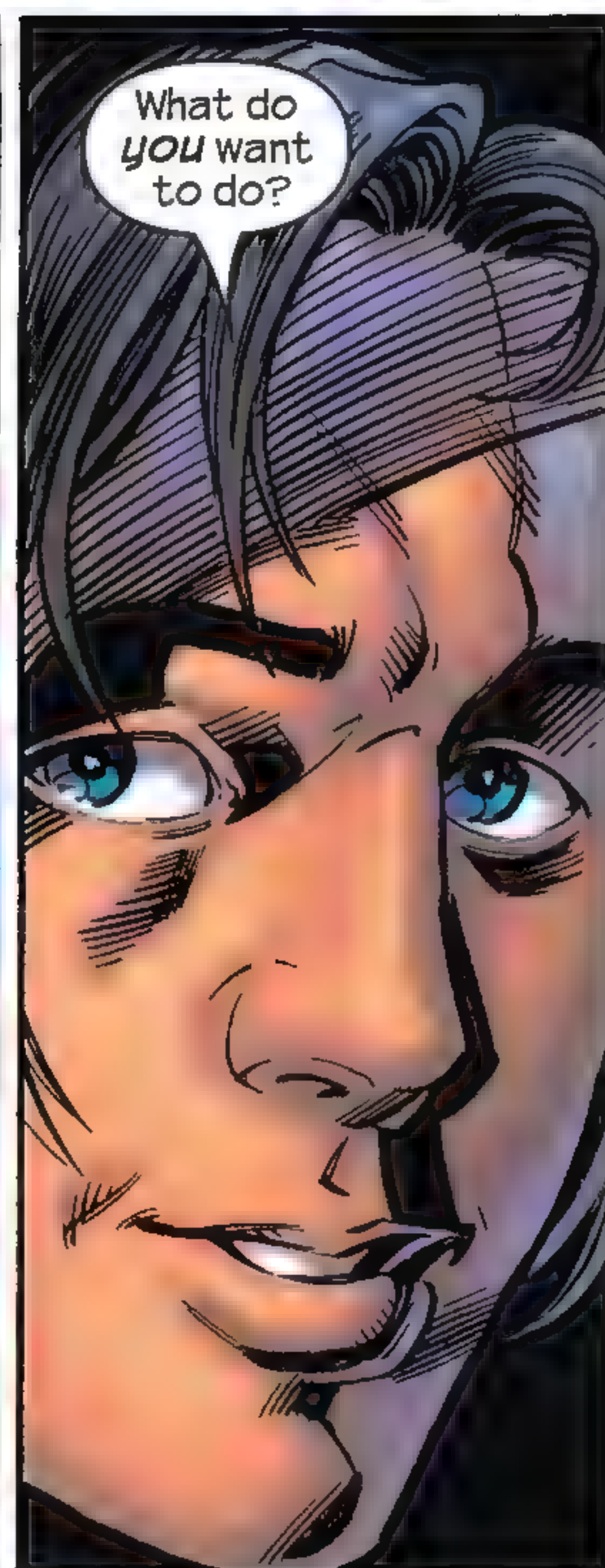
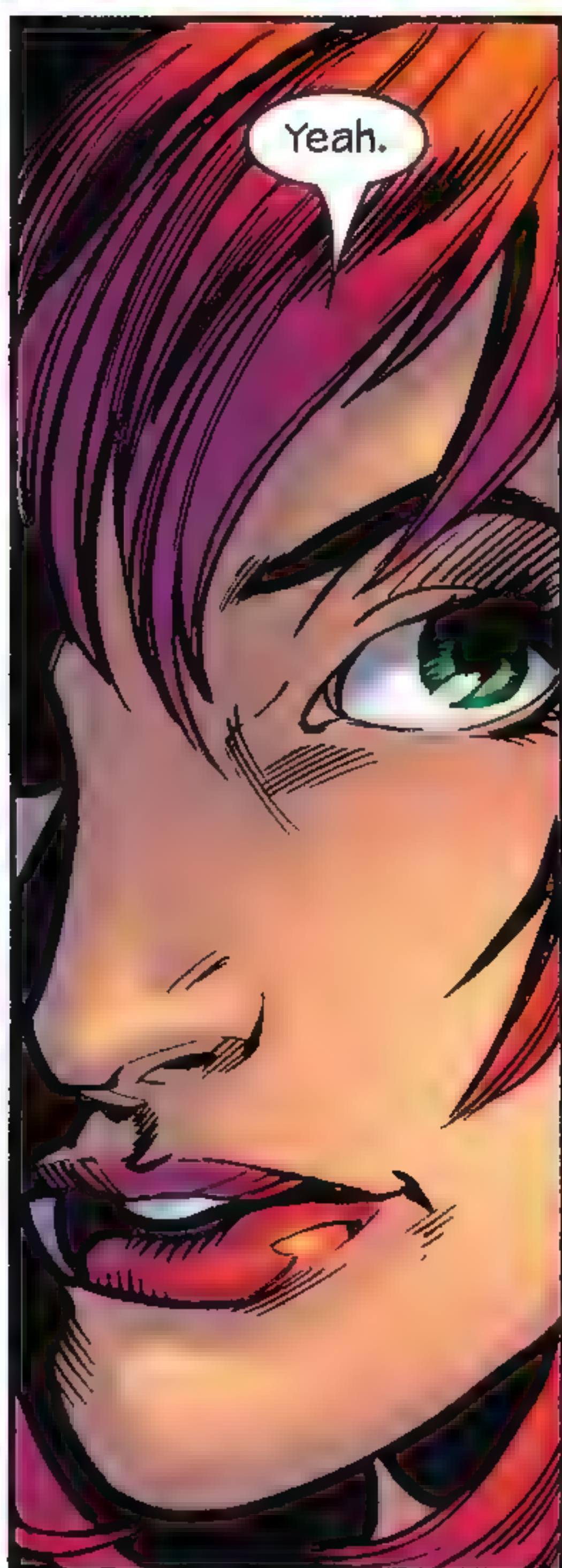
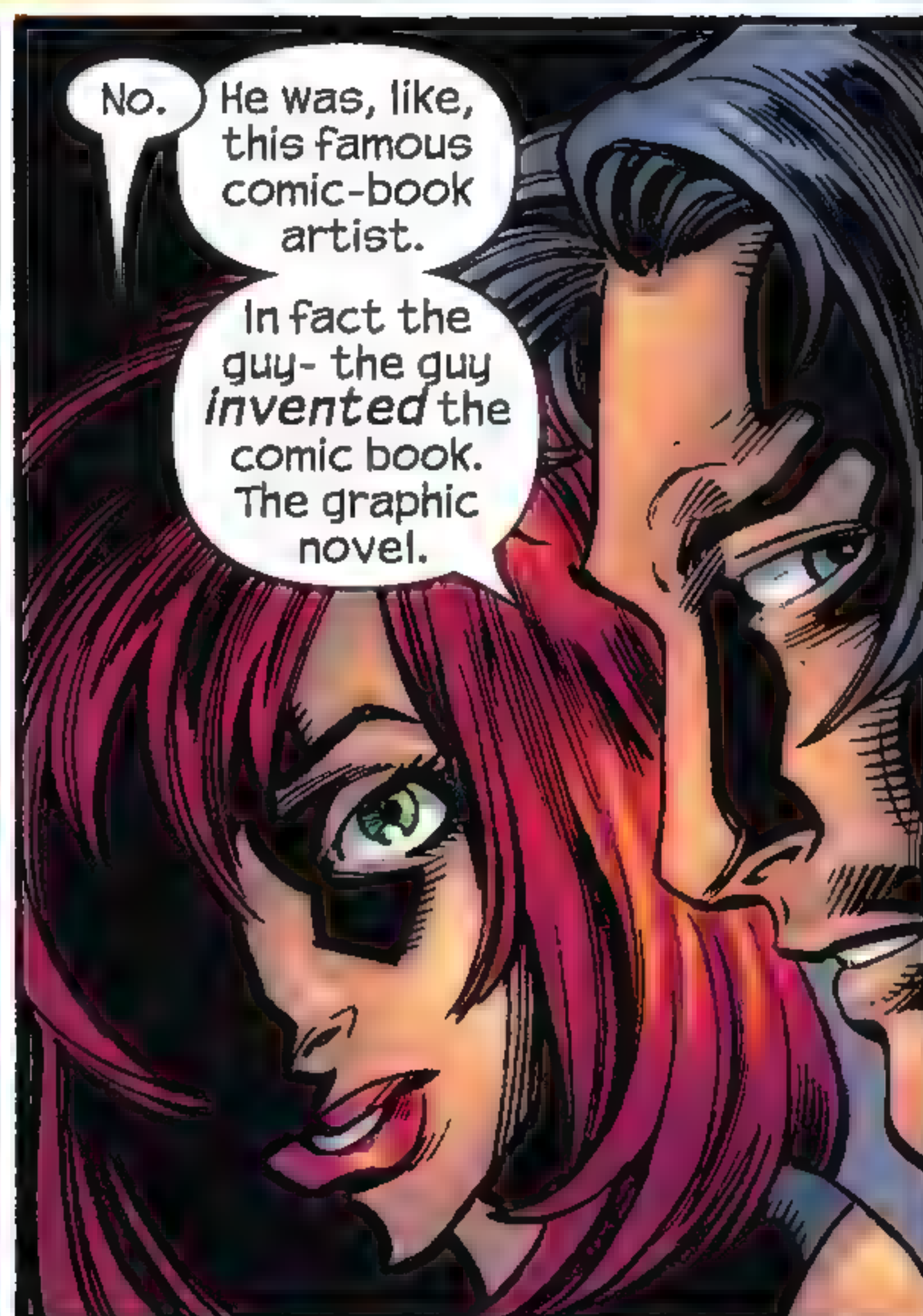
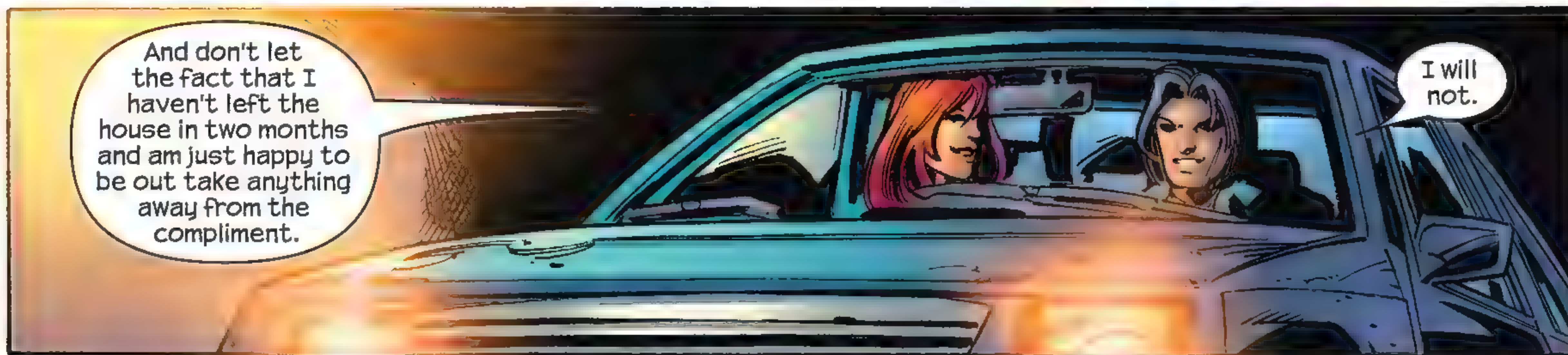
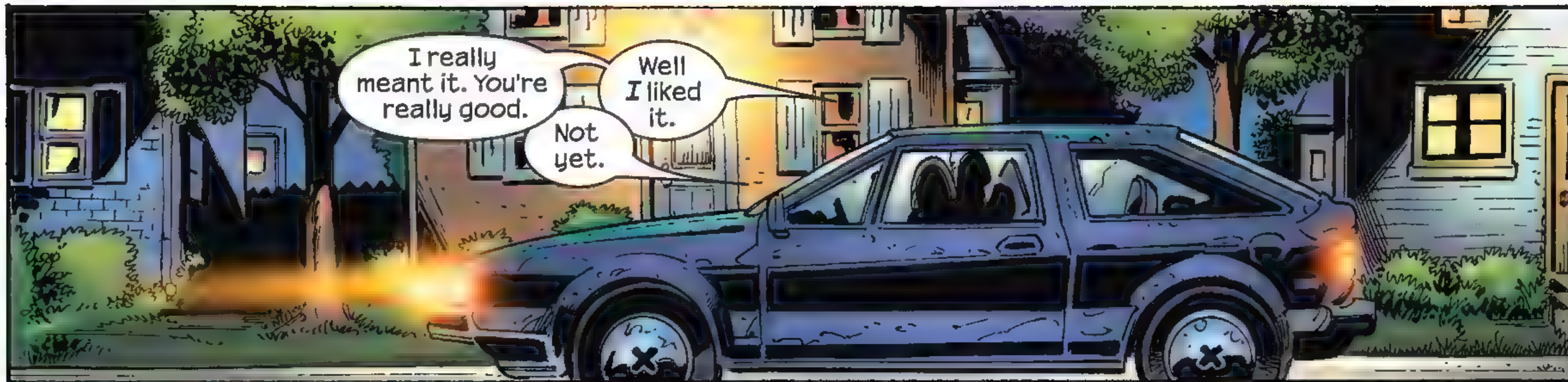
Catchy.

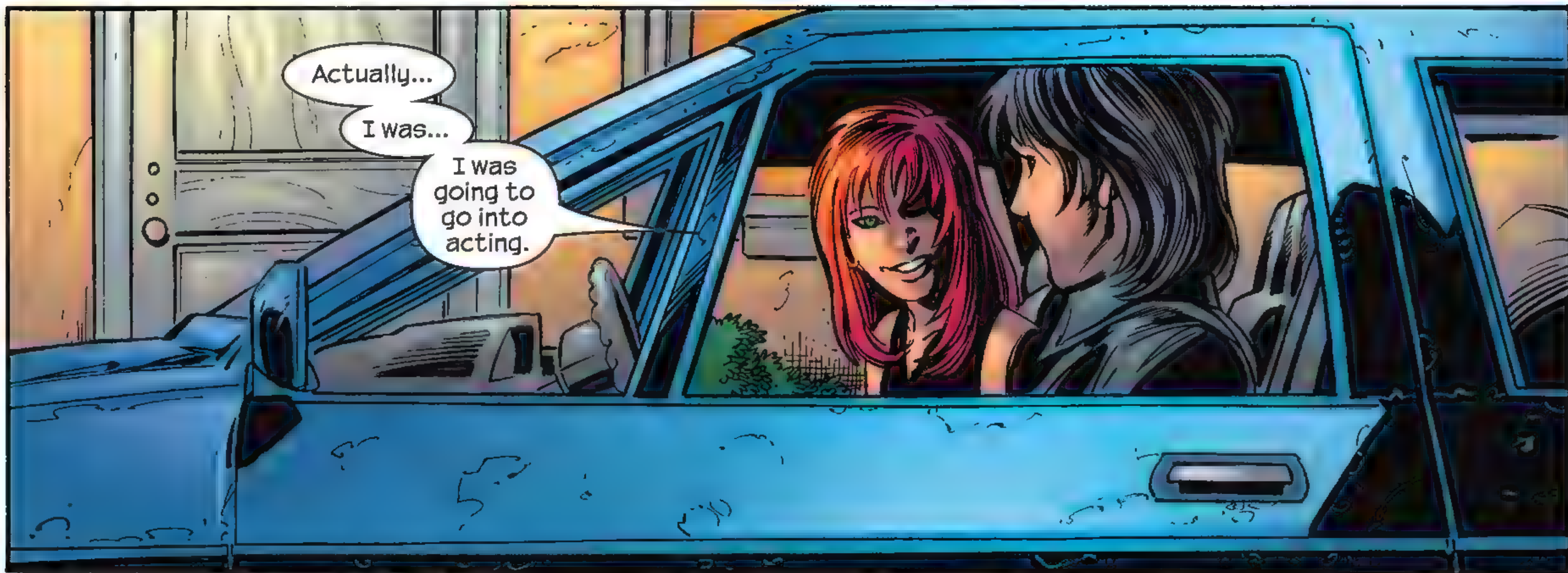


MOLTEN MMMMMAAAGGRRGGHH!!









Actually...

I was...

I was
going to
go into
acting.



That's
cool.



And then it occurred
to me that I totally and
completely hate every
movie I have ever
seen.

And I hate
every TV show
I have ever
seen.

And that I
can't think of an
actor that I actually
admire who's actually,
like, still *alive* and
stuff.



I can
see that.



But I do admire
teachers.

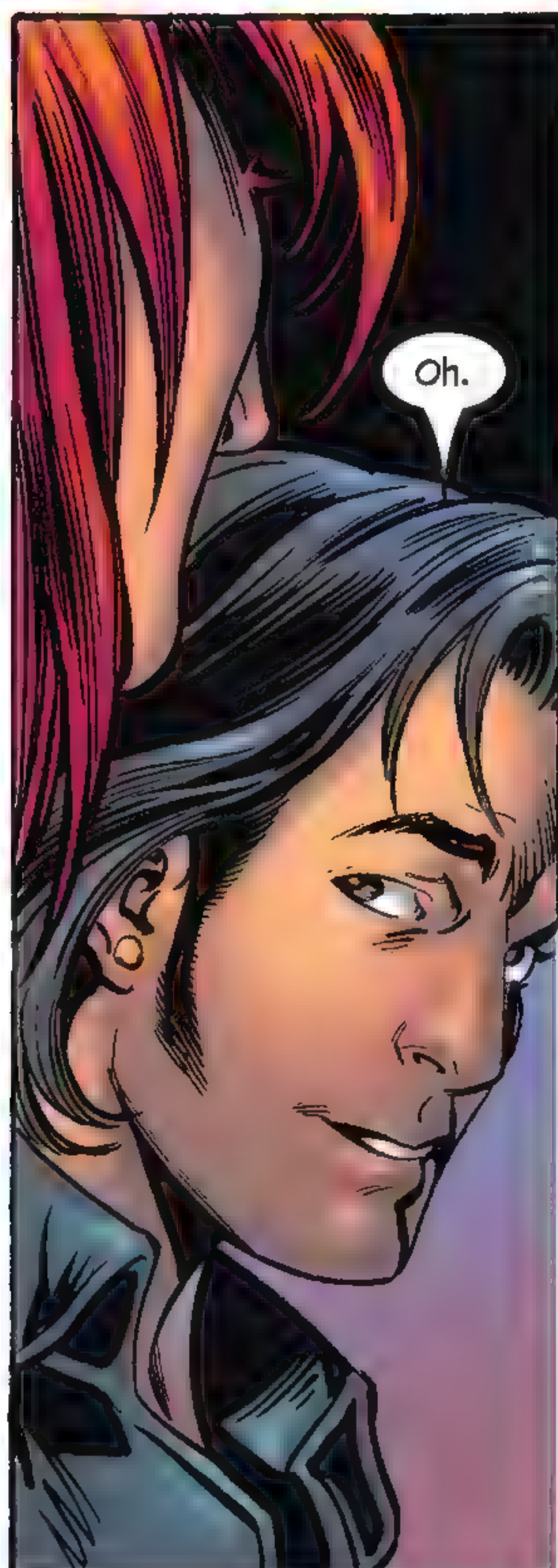
Really?
Why?

Good
teachers.

Teachers that
care and stuff.
We have, like, maybe
one of those,
right?

Maybe.
On a good
day.

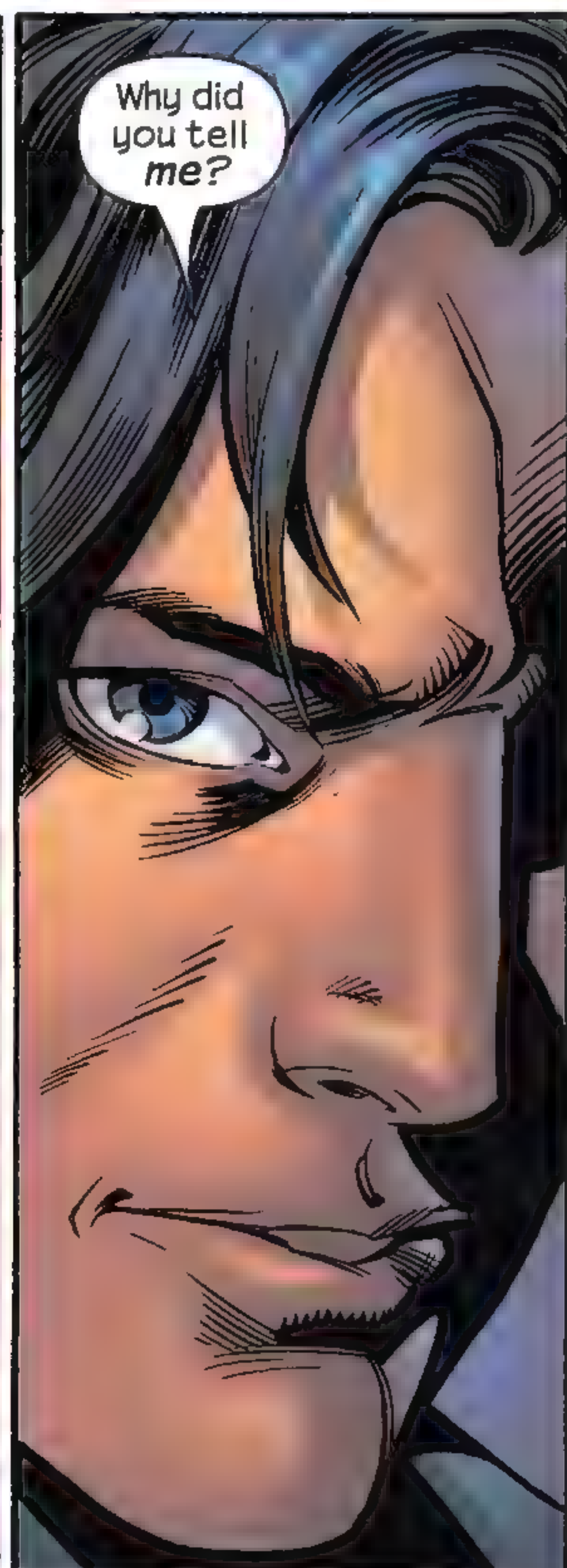
The world
needs teachers
and I'm going to
be one.



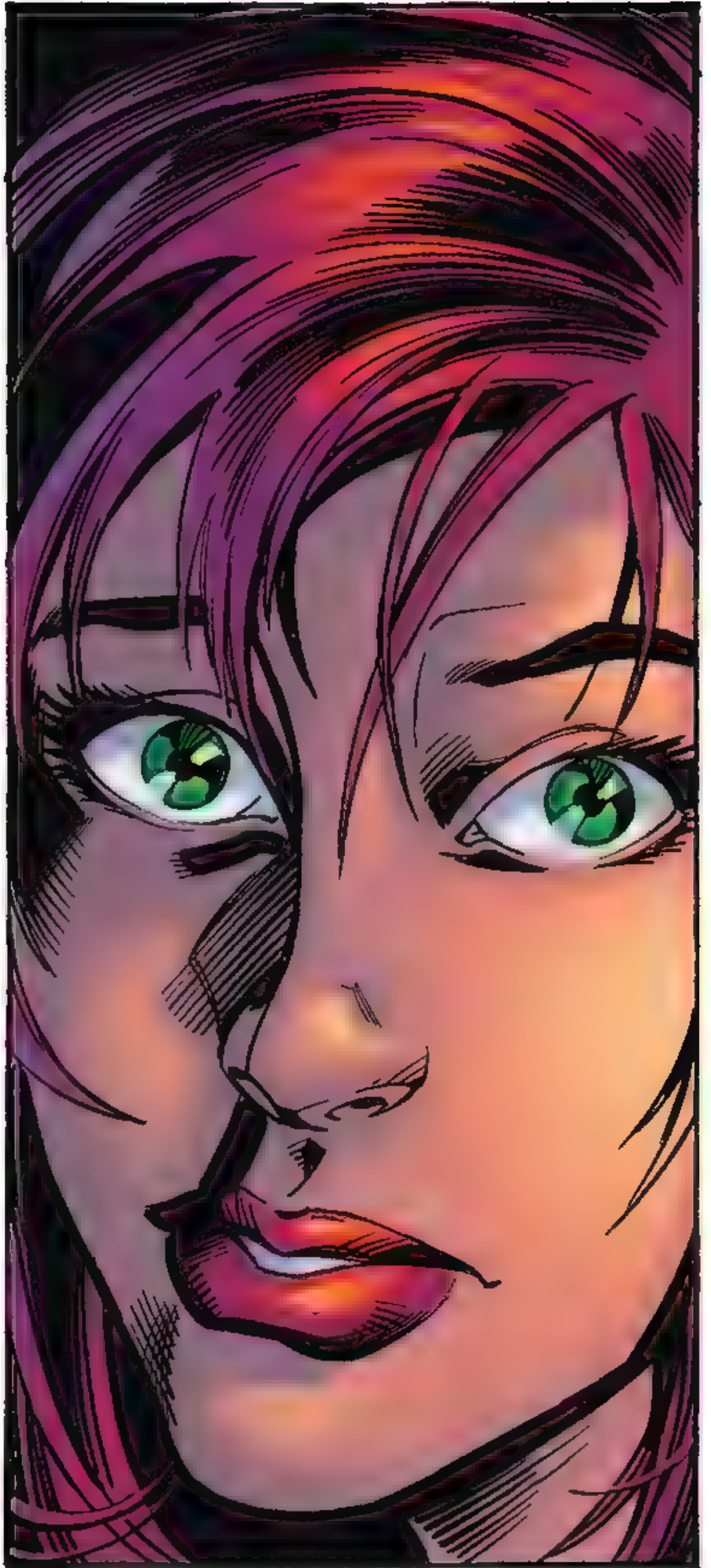
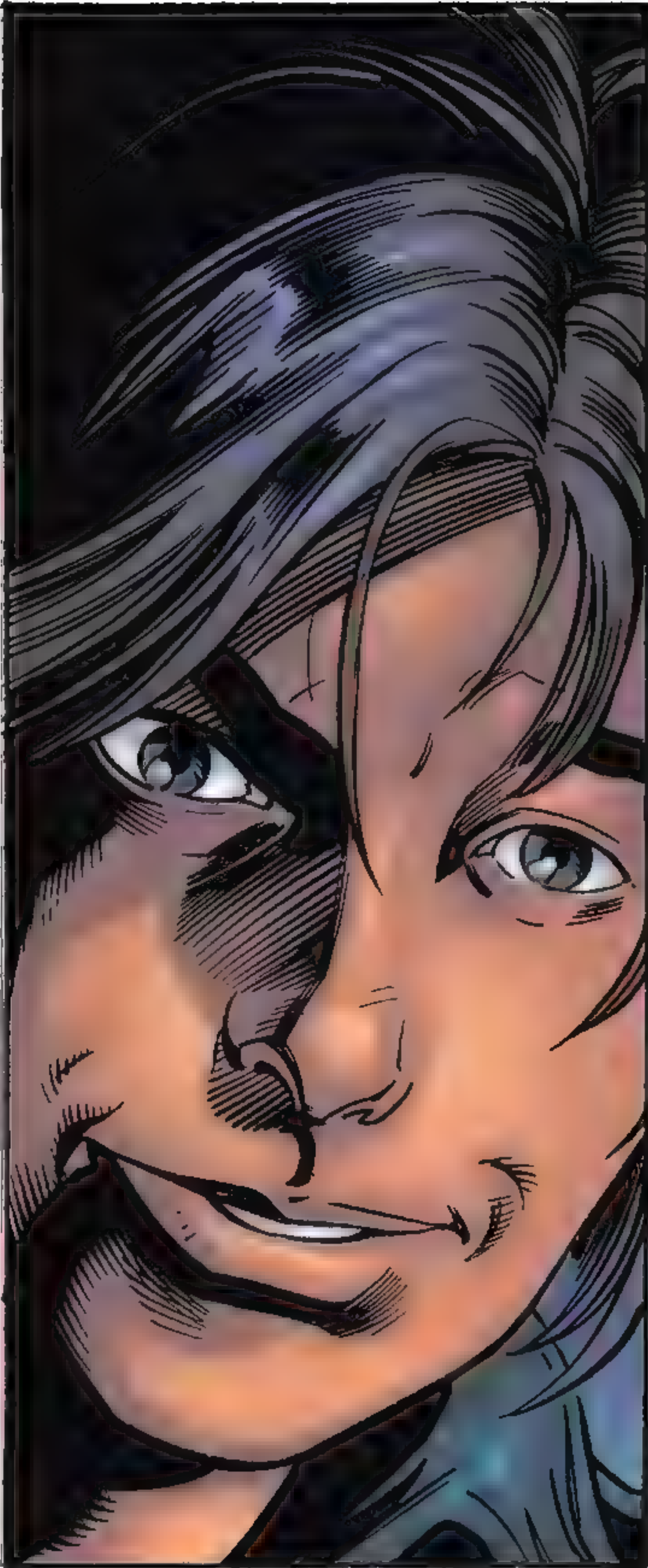
Oh.

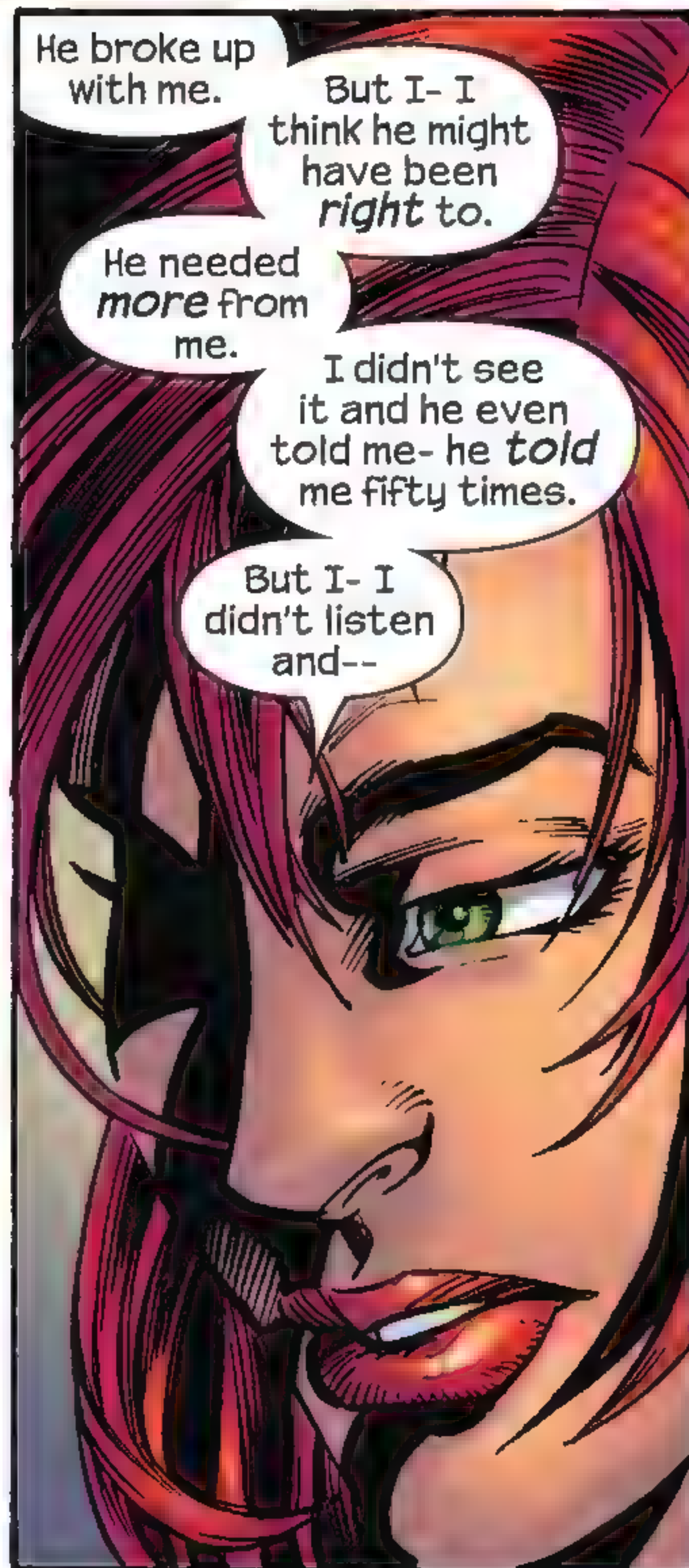
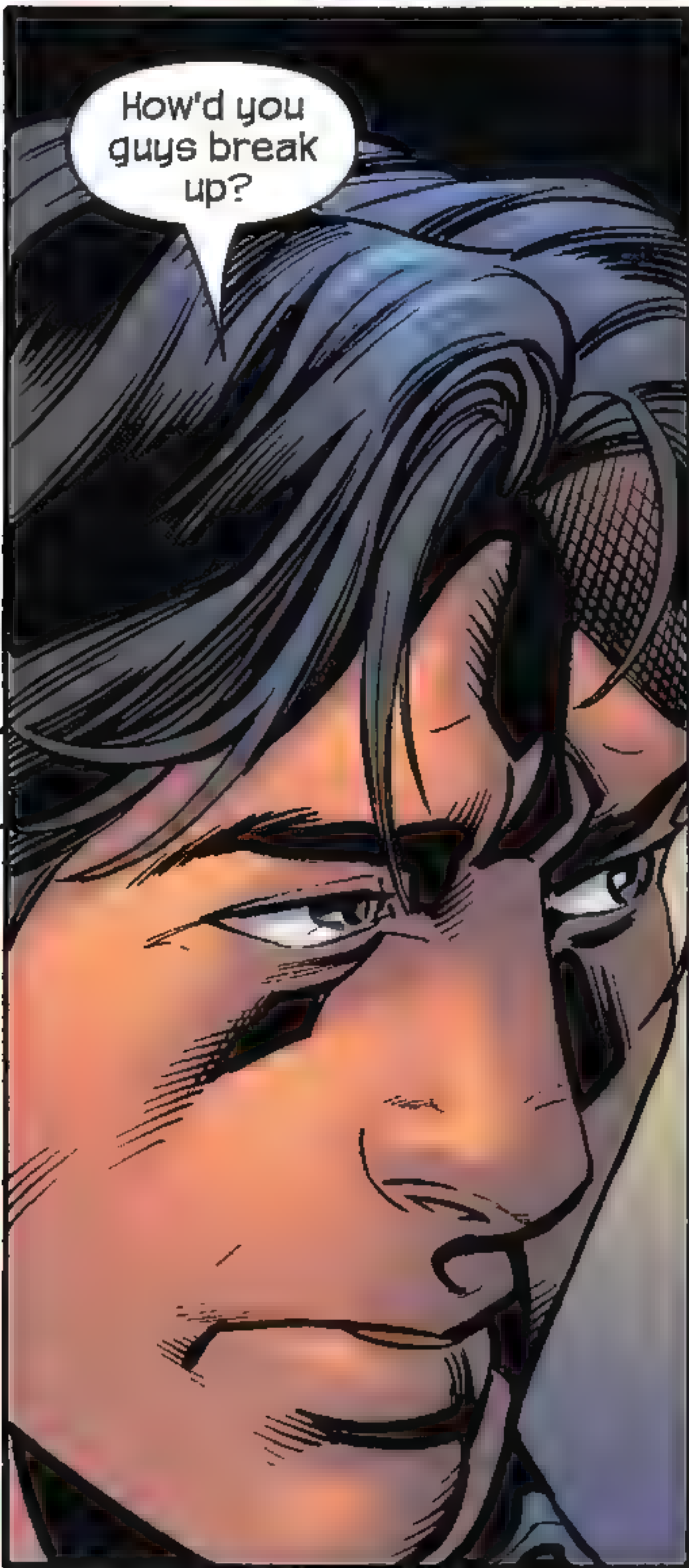


And I, uh- I
actually have
never told
anyone that.



Why did
you tell
me?







I need to *not* be one of those people who just go through life making the same mistakes *over and over*.

Everyone I see in the world...it's the same mistakes over and over.



Thing is- I love him.

I love him so much I can't even think of a way to properly express it to you. You know?



It's in my skin.

I can actually feel it in my skin.



And he hates me now and...I don't care.

His hating me did not affect my feelings for him *at all*.

I love him. I know it.

And you know what? I'm going to earn it back.



I am.

I am going to prove myself worthy of- of his friendship.

I am.

I am going to do it.



Man...

What's so special about this Peter Parker?





Everything.

ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN

Hi, Ultimate Spidey-Fans!

This is assistant editor John Barber, bringing you the return of our letters column! Send us your thoughts on this special issue, by e-mail or regular mail, and we'll try to make this column a regular feature! Make sure you mark your letters (and e-mails) "Okay to Print" if you want to see them here!

Hope you enjoyed this special one-off issue starring Mary Jane. Last issue's Peter/MJ breakup really switched up the status quo for *Ultimate Spidey*—I'm sure the question on everybody's lips is "will they get back together?"

Well, believe me when I tell you you're in for a real thrill-ride, and I guarantee the results won't be what you expect! The break-up will continue to have ramifications for Peter through the next story arc (and remember, the poor guy's still reeling from Gwen's death!) as well as—*Ultimate Spider-Man Annual #1* this August!

That's right—a special extra-sized issue is coming your way, along with the usual batch of *Ultimate Spidey* goodness.

Dear Ralph, John, and Nicole,

Just got back from Lee's Comics with my weekly stack and a copy of *Ultimate Spider-Man #75*.

The cover: for his 75th issue, Spidey will now do some web-slinging and get a super-sized hernia at the same time.

Harry Osborn is caught in the tentacles and many faces of his father.

He is now in the land of Oz.

The son of Norman Osborn tries to outrace the sun, but is blinded by the light.

Harry has got a lot to sleep on.

He is taken for a ride once more.

They share some common knowledge and knowledge is power. Harry must save himself from the legacy of his father.

The invisible man wants him to do his bidding.

Peter Parker is carrying a lot on his own back.

The answers come easy for him, but not so for Mary Jane.

Up in the bleachers, Peter could use some cheering up.

Now, it's time for show-and-tell.

The lad is now on the run, as usual.

Harry plays hooky, but doesn't manage to welsh out of the deal.

It's all in his head.

Some hairy moments for the son of Norman Osborn.

The masks and memories have come off.

One explosion, with three lives changed forever.

Something's gotten under Harry's skin, but the cellar door's now open.

Steve Chung
Via e-mail

Thanks, Steve! That's really poetic. Hope it means you enjoyed the issue!



Next month: This is the month Ultimate Fans have been waiting for (whether you knew it or not): **Ultimate Starts Month!** Join us for new storylines in all your favorite Ultimate titles! Multiple Eisner Award nominee Brian K. Vaughan and superstar Stuart Immonen pilot *Ultimate X-Men #61* to the "Magnetic North" in a 5-part tale that sets the stage for the upcoming story by *X-Men* movie director Brian Singer! Over in *Ultimate Fantastic Four # 21*, series co-creator Mark Millar returns, joined by fan favorite Greg Land (fresh off of *X-Men: Phoenix Endsong*) for a story you never thought you'd see (and that we could only call "Crossover")! And finally, your friends and ours, Mark Millar and Bryan Hitch, instigate "Grand Theft America" in *Ultimates #7*.

And join us in four short weeks as Brian and Mark introduce us to the "Warriors"! Guest stars galore inhabit this 7-issue epic—plus we meet a new character, making his first Ultimate appearance! See you next month!

JOHN BARBER & NICOLE WILEY
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